



# Islamabad POST

Thursday, August 25, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

### Abraham Accords have not changed Palestinians situation

Detailed News On Page-08

### NATO allies must invest more in defense

Detailed News On Page-07



### Court suspends Thailand's PM from office

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Pakistan condemns BJP leader remarks

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the highly provocative and sacrilegious remarks made against Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Rasool Allah Khatam-un-Nabiyeen Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Ala Alayhee Wa Ashabehi Wassalam by another official of BJP in India. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said this is the second time in the last three months that a senior BJP leader has made disrespectful comments against our beloved Prophet Muhammad Rasool Allah Khatam-un-Nabiyeen Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Ala Alayhee Wa Ashabehi Wassalam.

### China vows to help flood victims

BEIJING: China on Wednesday expressed deep condolences to Balochistan and Sindh's flood victims and announced to provide emergency humanitarian aid, including tents and other urgently needed relief material. "China has noticed that severe floods have occurred in many places in Pakistan recently, causing heavy casualties and property losses.

### 'Exports to China set to cross \$4b'

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin-ul-Haque has said that Pakistan's exports to China have registered an upward trend in the first seven months of current year and with this momentum, it is likely to cross four billion dollars target by end of this year. Talking to a group of businessmen in Beijing, the ambassador said our exports to China remained at 3.6 billion dollars with a record increase last year. Moin-ul-Haque called upon the businessmen and traders to join hands with the Government of Pakistan to further enhance exports from Pakistan to China and invited them to propose different means and methods.

## PM all praise for Pak-Qatar cooperation

### Shehbaz meets Qatari Amir; the two leaders exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues

CENRELINE REPORT

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, at the Diwan-e-Amiri, in Doha. The Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Cabinet Ministers and senior members. Upon arrival at the Diwan-e-Amiri, the Prime Minister was welcomed by His Highness the Amir in an official ceremony and presented a Guard of Honour. The two leaders then held delegation-level consultations, which were followed by a lunch banquet hosted by the Amir in the honour of the Prime Minister and his entourage. During their extensive consultations, the two leaders exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. They expressed satisfaction on the upward trajectory of Pakistan-Qatar relations and agreed to work together to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. The two sides agreed inter alia to strengthen institutional engagement to increase bilateral trade; deepen collaboration in the agriculture and food

Continued on Page 06

## Qatar considers \$3bn Pakistan investment

DNA

DOHA: Qatar on Wednesday considers to invest \$3 billion in key sectors of Pakistan's economy as the gas-rich Gulf state extends its support to the cash-strapped South Asian nation, Bloomberg reported. According to people familiar with the matter, the Qatar Investment Authority is evaluating strategic investments in the country's main airports in Islamabad and Karachi, as well as in the renewable energy, power and hospitality sectors. The investments from Qatar may partly overlap with the \$2 billion in bilateral support Qatar has already planned for Pakistan, one of the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private. The fund may end up investing more or less than \$3

Continued on Page 06

## Unprecedented rains kill 830 in Pakistan

### The current climate catastrophe needs immediate int'l and national humanitarian efforts, Sherry says

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman has called for immediate humanitarian aid and rescue efforts to rehabilitate the rain and flood-affected populations across Pakistan. As many as 830 people have been killed, 1,348 injured and thousands left homeless as torrential rains lash the country, Rehman said during a briefing on the current flood emergency to reassess the damage caused by the recurrent flash flooding in affected areas. From Balochistan, the monsoon system has moved to Sindh where 30 districts are underwater. During the current monsoon, Sindh and Balochistan experienced 395% and 379% above the average rainfall, she said. It is a climate catastrophe of epic scale, bringing in its wake the humanitarian crisis that could well match the magnitude of the big flood that was witnessed in 2010. At this point, both sides of the Indus are flooded in Sindh, which is the current epicentre of the calamity. The shelter is dangerously impacted in the 30 districts of Sindh, and even in Balochistan, and now the same kind of speed and velocity of wa-

## Mariyum appeals to people for funds

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb has appealed everyone to donate their funds in PM Flood Relief Fund from today. In a statement, she said that State Bank of Pakistan has issued a circular allowing all commercial banks to receive the donations. The Information Minister said overseas Pakistanis can also donate their funds in the Prime Minister Relief Fund. The donations can be deposited in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund 2022 Account No. 'G-12164'. The Information Minister asked the nation to support the flood affected people.

ter is being experienced in south Punjab. People are adrift, livestock and crops are damaged. It is a humanitarian disaster of unprecedented monsoon proportions, said

Continued on Page 06



DOHA: Amiri guards present Guard of Honour to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to Qatar. - DNA

## German envoy evinces keen interest in housing sector

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador-Designate to Pakistan Alfred Grannas on Wednesday showed keen interest in housing sector of Pakistan and appreciated the efforts of the Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, for his commitment, vision and devotion to promote housing sector. In a meeting between Housing and Works Ministry Secretary and German ambassador designate in the ministry, both sides exchanged views on range of bilateral issues of mutual interest and cooperation. Welcoming the ambassador, Iftikhar Ali Shallwani expressed his best wishes and apprised him about the ongoing housing projects especially the low cost housing schemes of the ministry and initiatives taken to provide shelter to the federal government employees and general public. Secretary also invited ambassador to the upcoming first International Housing Expo in November, which he intends to attend. - APP

## Current account deficit shrinks

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The three-month import ban imposed by the coalition government bore fruits as Pakistan's current account deficit - the gap between the country's higher foreign expenditure and low income - shrank by a massive 45% month-on-month. The current account deficit clocked in at \$1.21 billion in July 2022 in comparison to a deficit of \$2.2 billion (revised figure) in June, data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed.

## Time ripe to rid country of cabal of thieves: Khan

### Warns to give final call soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HARIPUR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan made it clear that time was ripe to rid the country of the cabal of thieves who mercifully looted and plundered the country for the last 30 years, as the journey of real independence was now unstoppable. Speaking at a mammoth public gathering here on Wednesday, he warned that imported government should



Continued on Page 06

## Imran Khan to appear in anti-terror court

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has decided to approach anti-terrorism court (ATC) for pre arrest bail in a terrorism case registered against him over a 'threatening speech'. Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday had granted transit bail to former prime minister Imran Khan and barred Islamabad Police from arresting the PTI Chairman. PTI Chairman on Sunday was booked for allegedly threatening Islamabad police officers and female

Continued on Page 06

## Biden announces \$3bn in military aid to Ukraine

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States has announced nearly \$3bn in new military aid to Ukraine, with President Joe Biden saying the assistance aims to help the country defend against Russia's invasion "over the long term" as the war entered its seventh month. In a statement on Wednesday, as Ukraine marked its independence from the Soviet Union, Biden said the \$2.98bn package would allow Kyiv to acquire air defence systems, "artillery systems and mu-

ditions, counter-unmanned aerial systems, and radars". This is the single largest US aid package for Ukraine since Russian forces began their full-scale military invasion of the country in February. "I know this independence day is bitter-sweet for many Ukrainians as thousands have been killed or wounded, millions have been displaced from their homes, and so many others have fallen victim to Russian atrocities and attacks," Biden said in the statement. "But six months of relentless

Continued on Page 06

## Inside...

Traders call for simplifying present taxation system - Page 02

COMSTECH-SMIC organize training on halal standards - Page 03

IWMB warns against bathing in Margallah springs - Page 04

Europe's drought could have a long afterlife - Page 05

Korea pledges to increase e-gaming co-op with Pakistan - Page 06

'Pak-Iran Trade Exhibition' to enhance co-op in trade - Page 07

Abraham Accords have not changed Palestine situation - Page 08

## US, Iran inch closer to deal despite hurdles

### Even US supporters of an agreement are no longer referring to the "longer and stronger" deal that they had initially set out to win when indirect negotiations with Iran began last spring

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is expected to weigh in this week on Iran's latest offer to resume its compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, but neither side is offering a definitive path to revive the agreement, which has been on life-support since former President Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018. US officials say they expect to respond to Iran's comments on a European draft proposal, after which there is expected to be another exchange of technical details followed by a meeting of the joint commission that oversees the deal. The new developments, including stepped-up public messaging campaigns by both Tehran and Washington, suggest that an agreement could be near. Despite the forward movement, numerous hurdles remain. And key sticking points could still unravel efforts to bring back the 2015 deal under which

## US airstrikes target Iran-backed militia in Syria

### It was 'necessary to protect and defend US personnel,' said the US military's Central Command

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Ez-Zor early Wednesday, targeting facilities used by militant groups tied to Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). The attacks were conducted on the orders of President Joe Biden. The US military said it carried out airstrikes in Syria's Deir. The US military shared no infor-

mation about casualties or specific targets. It was not clear whether the strikes were carried out by manned or unmanned aircraft. Colonel Joe Buccino said the attacks were "necessary to protect and defend US personnel." The US military's Central Command said the strikes "took proportionate, deliberate action intended to limit the risk of escalation and minimize the risk of casualties."

Buccino, Central Command's spokesperson, said the airstrikes were in response to an August 15 drone attack by Iranian-backed militias targeting the al-Tanf Garrison used by US forces. There were no casualties reported from this event. Iran denied having any ties to sites targeted by the United States, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



# Traders call for simplifying present taxation system

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Business community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa blamed the present cumbersome procedures and documentation process as the main hurdle to broadening the existing 'tax-base' and urged the government to simplify the taxation system. It is dire need of hour of reforming and simplifying the taxation system with the consultation of real stakeholders, says Zahiullah Shinwari, former president Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry while responding to a question of an officer of 31st senior management course, National Institute of Management, Islamabad during a meeting here at Chamber's house that was chaired by acting president Imran Khan Mohmand here on Wednesday. Shinwari said the present complicated taxation system was the main obstacle in widening the existing tax-base. He called for simplifying the taxation system and adopting traders-friendly policies. To another query relating to Pak-Afghan Bilateral Trade, ex-president of the SCCI said declining trend in mutual trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan began since signing of the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA) in earlier 2010, which had made without making proper consultation with business community of both side the border, consequently, Pak-Afghan bilateral trade volume dropped exponentially, which is currently stood at approximately

less than 400 to 500 million dollars from previously 2.5 billion dollars. Similarly, he expressed serious apprehensions over sluggish progress on the preferential trade agreement (PTA) and free trade agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Afghanistan. On the other hand, he added, the sufficient measures didn't take place to improve infrastructure to accelerate trade between the two neighboring countries. A 14 member delegation of 31st Senior Management Course, NIM Islamabad was spearheaded by Directors Staff NIM Islamabad Samreen Zahara and Seemi A Khan. Javed Akhtar, vice president of the chamber, Malik Niaz Ahmad, Faiz Muhammad Faizi and Sherbaz Bilour, former presidents of the SCCI, former vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, executive members Ghulam Hussain, Naem Qasmi, Waqar Ahmad, Zahoor Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Mujeeb Rehman and Aftab Iqbal, Fazle Wahid, Ihsanullah, Shamsur Rehman, Senior management/Officers of Daud Sons Armory Peshawar, traders' leaders, Shinwari said it is the duty of the government to create an enabling environment of investment and provide all facilities to investors to boost up industrialization. However, he said no incentive was being offered to attract investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Earlier, in his detailed multimedia presentation, Zahiullah Shinwari briefed the visiting officers of senior management course NIM Islamabad about the main objectives of the chamber, rules/procedures of

membership, major achievements, future plan/programme, especially role of Research and Development Cell and its effective functioning. He said SCCI is amongst the prime chamber of Pakistan, which has always played a pivotal role toward resolution of business community issues, especially, termed the provision of special relief to war-affected businesses, tax-holidays, and comprehensive incentive package for them included major achievements of the chamber. Imran Mohmand, acting president in his opening remarks said doing business and trade in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not less than 'Jihad' [holy war], as the traders' community continued their businesses despite unfavorable conditions. Keeping in view the present unstable and insecure situation in KP, the acting president urged the government to provide a level playing field for the business community of the province. He demanded the equal incentive to local investors that were provided to Chinese investors in CPEC projects. Similarly, he demanded uninterrupted power and gas supply to industries and business premises. He called for pragmatic steps to revive sick industrial units and up-gradation of existing industrial estates in the province. He also urged the government and SBP to issue instructions to commercial banks to improve lending ratio in KP region. Directors Staff NIM Islamabad Samreen Zahara and Seemi A Khan also spoke on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, Ambassador of UAE, meets with Rana Sanaullah, Minister for Interior and discussed the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. – DNA

## UAE envoy, LCCI discuss investments, trade

LCCI President suggested the UAE Ambassador to establish a UAE help desk here on the premises of the LCCI

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi said on Wednesday that UAE has tremendous investment opportunities in bio-technology, food, agriculture and various other sectors that should be availed by the private sector of Pakistan. He expressed these views while talking to business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) where LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Ateeq also spoke on the occasion. The UAE Ambassador said that Pakistan and UAE enjoy unique relations with each other. A lot of Pakistanis are actively contributing to the various sectors of economy in UAE. He said that a large number of businessmen from UAE are interested to invest in Pakistan but they don't have full picture and knowledge about the market needs. He said that UAE and Pakistan are major economic and trading partners. Among the top importing and exporting countries for Pakistan, UAE comes at 2nd and 6th places respectively. The balance of trade has always been in favour of UAE because major share of imports made from UAE consist of petroleum products and crude oils which stood at around 77 percent last year. "During last two years i.e. 2020 and 2021, the volume of trade between Pakistan and UAE increased from 5.6 billion dollars to 8.6 billion dollars. Pakistan's exports inched up from 1.1 billion dollars in 2020 to 1.2 billion dollars in 2021 while imports from UAE jumped from 4.5 billion dollars

to 7.4 billion dollars in the same period. We are keen to bridge this gap through enhancing our exports to UAE," he added. He said that UAE's meat imports are 394 million dollars while Pakistan's share in it is only 140 million dollars. Similarly, Pakistan's rice export share is 123 million dollars in 470 million dollars UAE's import of this sector and 88 million dollars in 2960 million dollars UAE's import of fruits. The LCCI President said that these exportable items are abundantly available in Pakistan adding "We are in a position to fetch better share in total imports made by UAE". He said that the trade missions of both sides can play pivotal role in making it possible so that we can succeed in tripling the current volume of exports to UAE. He said that the workers' remittances play a substantial role in strengthening the balance of payment of Pakistan. "At present, our country is in great need of additional remittances. UAE comes at second place after Saudi Arabia with regards to receiving highest amount of foreign remittances. In 2021-22, the workers remittances from UAE stood at 5.8 billion dollars". He said that there is also a tremendous scope for UAE to make investment in Pakistan in Minerals & Mining, Petroleum, Pharmaceuticals, Light Engineering, Processed Food, Financial Services and Retail Sector etc. There is a need for routing the flow of investment to Pakistan. He commended the efforts of UAE government in organizing the Dubai Expo 2020 which gave excellent opportunities to the businesses to connect, create and innovate. "We are obliged that Pakistan had a significant representation in that Expo," he added. The LCCI President suggested the UAE Ambassador to establish a UAE help desk here on the premises of the LCCI so that the trade related issues of LCCI members could be resolved immediately.

## Telenor, Roche to create nationwide health awareness

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan has partnered with RocheDiagnostics Pakistan to raise health awareness across the rural and urban areas of the country. Under the partnership agreement, Telenor Pakistan will educate its KhushalWatan app users via interactive voice response (IVR), SMS and live shows to create awareness about hepatitis and other diseases with high prevalence and burden in Pakistan. Telenor Pakistan operates a suite of digital products and services that connect people to what matters most. The KhushalWatan portfolio is a rural lifestyle platform, focusing on m-Agri advisories, rural infotainment, and m-health. The network educates users through its flagship rural health service "KhushalSehat" and urban m-health service "Healthline". Millions of people in Pakistan lack awareness about life-threatening diseases and their prevention. Telenor Pakistan's partnership with RocheDiagnostics - a leading, global research-based healthcare company, will strive to create actionable advice and suggest preventive measures to the public about life-threatening diseases, including hepatitis, heart diseases, cancer, and diabetes. "Telenor Pakistan continues to find avenues to connect its customers to what matters most



to them. We are glad to make a meaningful impact towards sustainable, accessible, and affordable healthcare information for millions of Pakistanis, together with Roche Diagnostics," KhurramAshfaq, Chief Operating Officer, Telenor Pakistan said. Abdul Qayyum, Country Manager, Roche Diagnostics Pakistan & Afghanistan said, "For 125 years, Roche has been at the forefront in redefining the standard of care to improve health outcomes. At RocheDiagnostics Pakistan, our goal is to help increase public health awareness to support the prevention, early detection, and monitoring of diseases. In this regard, I am

proud of our partnership with Telenor Pakistan that will enable us to jointly empower people to safeguard and manage their own health, thereby enabling patients to test early and treat right." Currently, Telenor Pakistan's IVR-based health service KhushalSehat offers health advisory services for users who dial in to talk to their general physicians. In live shows, speakers from Telenor Pakistan and Roche will educate users about different diseases. As part of the initiative, Telenor Pakistan will also promote its KhushalSehat helpline so that users can later dial in to get additional information when required.

## Govt stands with flood-affected people: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday said that the incumbent government was committed to provide relief to the flood-affected people and directed the relevant stakeholders to expedite the assistance to the people particularly in Balochistan. He issued the directions while chairing an emergency meeting to monitor the flood situation in the country particularly in Balochistan that was the most affected province. The meeting was attended by the Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), Members National Assembly from Balochistan and heads of provincial disaster management authorities. During the meeting, the minister was given a detailed briefing about the recent flood situation of floods in the

country particularly in Balochistan. Ahsan Iqbal directed NHA to ensure the restoration of highways which were badly affected by floods so relief efforts could not be disturbed. Similarly, he directed Sparco to carry out an aerial inspection to assess the flood situation in Sindh. It is noted that the federal government had already declared an emergency situation in the flood-affected areas. The provincial governments have also been directed to declare the areas as calamity-hit so that relief and rehabilitation efforts can be expedited. The minister also directed the concerned stakeholders to ensure the disbursement of cash to the affected people through BISP, adding the country was facing an unprecedented natural disaster and despite the limited resources the incumbent government was making all-out efforts to support the flood-affected people and for their rehabilitation. He directed the concerned stakeholders to establish

call centers to address the problems of the affected people. Public representatives should be contacted to assess the damages and flood situation in the affected areas, he added. Later, the minister held a separate emergency meeting with the Members of National Assembly belong to Balochistan and inquired about the latest flood situation in the province. The minister said that MNAs from Balochistan could better highlight the situation which would help the concerned stakeholders to address the issues in the affected areas. The government stood with the people of Balochistan in this difficult time as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was continuously getting updates over the floods, he added. Earlier, Professor Iqbal in letters to the Chief Ministers of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Prime Minister AJK and GB asked them to devise a plan for the joint flood relief efforts.

## PML-Q praises Army's relief activities

DNA

LAHORE: PMLQ Deputy Secretary Information said in a press release that Performance of the Pakistan Army during the flood disasters is impressive, he said that the Pak Army did not leave the people alone in any time of trouble. Be it earthquakes or other disaster in the past, the nation seems to be expressing satisfaction over the relief activities of the Pak Armed Forces. It is enough for the critics that the work of the forces is only to protect the borders that What is their position in this situation? they are engaged in disasters and make sacrifice.

## Govt must facilitate businesses: PAJCCI

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: A meeting of the stakeholders of Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) focused on regional business connectivity. According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, the meeting was attended by business community along with women members, officials of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and PAJCCI senior management including Vice President, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi. In the onset of the meeting, Zia Sarhadi, Vice President PAJCCI informed the forum about on-going developments in the area of land trade with Afghanistan especially the role which government can play in facilitation and improvement. He apprised that PAJCCI and its Chairman, Zubair Motiwala and Co-Chairman, Khan Jan Alokzai have put their good offices to raise the voice of business community with governments to the level of respective premiers. Nighat Shahid, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry apprised the forum about her recent visit to Azerbaijan and highlighted

the huge business potential there. She said that business with Central Asian Republics (CARs) has high yield potential for Pakistani products however transportation cost was too high due to transit barriers between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Durrheshwar, of women wing PAJCCI appreciated the relentless efforts of businesswomen despite trade barriers and testing times. Secretary General PAJCCI Faiza informed the forum that the meeting was focusing on continuous engagement of businesswomen and it had extended the invitation to participate in upcoming Focus Group discussion in which PAJCCI had invited members of Afghan women chamber of commerce and industry to provide B2B connectivity to women in business on both sides of the border. She also apprised that TDAP had agreed to organize two Expos for PAK-AFG business community and would invite women members from both sides to encourage equal participation of women led businesses. PAJCCI is committed to encourage and activate women business community of the two countries which is vital to uplift the economy and to generate respectful employment for the women, she added.

## Graduation ceremony held for 'Combat Commanders'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Graduation ceremony of 'No 56 Combat Commanders' Course was held at Airpower Centre of Excellence (ACE) where Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Administration), Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Air Marshal Hamid Rashid Randhawa was the Chief Guest. While addressing the course participants, the Chief Guest said that ACE had polished their professional skills and enhanced their tactical awareness, a PAF news release said. He stressed that they must continue to strive for excellence in their upcoming assignments as core professionals. He further said that success in future was depended on timely addressing new trends in warfare, enhancing contemporary technologies and integrating future capabilities. The Chief Guest also expressed his satisfaction on implementation of emerging warfare concepts in the elite institution of PAF. He awarded certificates and trophies to the graduating officers who underwent a strenuous and professionally demanding course. Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for overall best performance amongst combat pilots was awarded to Squadron Leader Osama Sharif Ghani while Air Officer



Commanding Air Defence Trophy for overall best performance amongst combat controllers was awarded to Squad-



ron Leader Muhammad Ayaz. The ceremony was attended by Air Officers and field commanders of Pakistan Air Force.

## CM Murad urges philanthropists to help rain-hit people

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his televised message on Wednesday urged all philanthropists to come and help rain-affected people of the province which was enduring a catastrophe like never before. "I have visited almost all the districts of the province and found it's every nook and corner inundated, making it look like a river," he said and added that the people temporarily settled at relief camps were in a state of shock and distress after losing their near and dear ones, cattle and other belongings. The CM said that he along with Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had also visited relief camps where women and children were living in distress. "This painful situation has left a hole in our hearts," he said and added that President Asif Ali Zardari was also in touch with them and was aware of the situation. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was keen to visit flood affected people but the weather condition was an obstacle in his arrival. – APP



**National Days and Armed Forces Days****AUGUST**

Aug 01/ CHINA	Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND	National Day
Aug 01/ LEBANON	Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SYRIA	Armed Forces Day
Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO	National Day
Aug 09/ SINGAPORE	National Day
Aug 15/ DPR KOREA	Independence Day
Aug 15/ INDIA	Independence Day
Aug 15/ POLAND	Armed Forces Day
Aug 17/ INDONESIA	Independence Day
Aug 24/ UKRAINE	Independence Day
Aug 25/ URUGUAY	Independence Day
Aug 30/ TURKEY	Armed Forces Day
Aug 31/ KYRGYZ	Independence Day
Aug 31/ MALAYSIA	National Day

**Hotels & Restaurants**

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051- 2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812

**Airlines**

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
-----------------------	---------

**Emergency**

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20

**Enquiry**

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092

**Hospitals**

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666

**Departments**

CDA.....	9221334-43
CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
TMA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3

**Islamabad Metropolitan**

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

**Water Tank**

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
----------------	--------------

**COMSTECH-SMIIC organize training on halal standards**

The aim of the training was to transfer knowledge and skills, and to develop the human capital, while bridging the knowledge gap and enlightening the compliance requirements set forth by the regulatory bodies in OIC Countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in collaboration with Islamic University in Uganda jointly organized a training course on "OIC/SMIIC Halal Products Standards and Testing" at Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala during August 22 - 26, 2022. The authentication and confirmation of several products, including processed food and other items of daily use, and their Halal nature is a growing challenge globally along with the environmental contaminants, both biological and

chemical, and non-halal ingredients which are prohibited for Muslims, are a matter of concern. It is therefore, imperative for the Muslim countries to establish Halal testing standards and laboratories to ensure the 'Halal' status of the consumer products. In this context, the training course was designed to train the participants from African OIC member states about the procedures for adoption, implementation and use of the OIC/SMIIC Halal Food Standards, mainly: OIC/SMIIC 1:2019 - general requirements for Halal food, auditing of testing Labs in line with OIC/SMIIC 35 - conformity assessment, general requirements for the competence

of laboratories performing Halal testing and the testing procedures standards such as test method for detection of porcine in food products (meat, processed food and gelatin). The objective of this training course was to encourage the harmonization of Halal standards used in the OIC countries and internationally by aiding in the adoption and use of the OIC/SMIIC Halal standards. The aim of the training was to transfer knowledge and skills, and to develop the human capital, while bridging the knowledge gap and enlightening the compliance requirements set forth by the regulatory bodies in the OIC Countries. The training was attended

by the participants both in-person and online. The Rector, Islamic University in Uganda, Prof. Ismail Simbwa Gyagenda, welcomed the participants and the experts. The Secretary General, SMIIC, Mr. Ihsan ÖVÜT, the Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary addressed the inaugural session of the training. Both the dignitaries presented the report of their organizations - SMIIC and COMSTECH - and highlighted the recent programs launched to meet their mandate. Prof. Choudhary appreciated the efforts of the Rector of Islamic University in Uganda and his team for organizing the training for the capacity building of African member states.

SMIIC is an affiliated organ of the OIC and its headquarters is located in Istanbul, Türkiye. It works with the vision to create a quality infrastructure that improves economy, welfare and protects OIC member states. SMIIC develops necessary mechanisms for the OIC countries, aims at setting new standards in the member states and eliminating technical barriers to trade consequently increasing the trade among them. The Institute also aims to establish conformity assessment schemes for the purpose of expediting exchange of materials, manufactured goods and products among member states beginning with mutual recognition of certificates.



ISLAMABAD: Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works presenting souvenir to Alfred Grannas, German Ambassador-Designate to Pakistan. - DNA

**IESCO circles incharges to conduct E-kachery**

IESCO Customers regarding redressal of their electricity issues online as well as E-Kacheries are being held in IESCO region regularly

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: To provide suitable and proper forum to valuable IESCO Customers regarding redressal of their electricity issues online as well as E-Kacheries are being held in IESCO region regularly and same are creating friendly relationship among IESCO and Customers. By following same practice face-book E-Kacheries will held on 26th August 2022 (Friday) from 09:30 AM to 11:30 AM in all 06 Operational Circles of IESCO. Operational Circles

Incharge will attend customers complaints through face book live and telephone calls. Islamabad Circle customers can participate in face book live E-Kachery by using face book ID SE IESCO Islamabad E-Kachery Phone No. 051-9260194, For Rawalpindi City Circle, SE IESCO Rawalpindi-City E-Kachery Phone No. 051-9292675, For Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, SE IESCO Rawalpindi-Cantt E-Kachery Phone No. 051-9293048, For Attock Circle, SE IESCO Attock E-Kachery Phone No. 051-4950343, For Chakwal Circle, SE IESCO Chakwal E-Kachery Phone No. 0543-668500, For Jhelum Circle, SE IESCO Jhelum E-Kachery Phone No. 0544-9270377. Valuable customers are requested to mention their name, bill reference No, Contact No and complete address while launching the complaint.

**Mariyum shares details for depositing donations in PM's flood relief account**

All Pakistanis could join the work of helping flood victims through donations

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday released the details for depositing donations in the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Account 2022. In a statement, she said that State Bank of Pakistan had issued a circular for collection of donations through all commercial banks. Local and overseas Pakistanis could deposit donations in this account, said the minister. The minister said that 30-year rainfall record had been broken and unprecedented destruction had taken place across the country, especially in Balochistan and Sindh. She appealed to the masses to support the countrymen in trouble and requested all Pakistanis here and abroad to donate generously. She said that these donations could be deposited in Prime Minister Relief Fund Account 2022 Account No. 'G-12164' All Pakistanis could join the work of helping flood victims through donations. All commercial banks and their branches could collect donations in the Prime Minister Flood Relief Fund 2022 as per State Bank of Pakistan circular. Overseas Pakistanis can also send donations through wire transfers, money service bureaus, money transfer operators and exchange houses. Donations can also be deposited in cash at all commercial banks. Deposits can also be made through cross-cheque, mobile and internet banking, ATMs, ABFT and Raast in the drop boxes of banks. - APP

**ECP dismisses appeals against fines imposed on Imran, Asad**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday dismissed the appeal filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan and senior party leader Asad Umer wherein they had challenged the hefty fines imposed on them by the Commission for violating election code of conduct. A four-member bench heard the appeals and announced its decision after no one on behalf of Imran Khan and Asad Umer appeared before the commission to pursue

the case. The ECP ordered both leaders to pay a fine of Rs 50,000 each. It may be noted that despite ECP directives, Imran Khan had visited Swat while he was still in office and addressed a gathering on March 15 ahead of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's local government elections that were scheduled for March 31. The ECP had, as a result, imposed a fine of Rs 50,000. According to the new ECP code of conduct, no public office-holder

can visit the districts where elections are to be held. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) dismissed disqualification reference against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan in the Tosha Khana case that was filed by six treasury members of National Assembly. A four-member bench of ECP headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) heard the petition seeking disqualification of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan in Toshakhana case. Imran Khan's counsel Barrister Gauhar appeared in the court and argued that a similar reference of the Speaker National Assembly was already being heard at the Election Commission, so the application on behalf of six MNAs on same Toshakhana case had become ineffective and one petition should be quashed. The hearing in Toshakhana case would be resumed on August 29. - APP

**SC announces vacancies of Law Clerks**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has announced vacancies for the position of Law Clerk for a period of 1 year (extendable) commencing in October 2022 as part of the Supreme Court Law Clerkship Program. The Supreme Court Law Clerkship Program aims to cultivate the next generation of lawyers and jurists of Pakistan by providing a unique opportunity for professional growth and unparalleled mentorship,

said a press release here on Wednesday. A law clerk (also called judicial law clerk or judicial associate) is a lawyer - typically a recent law graduate - who provides direct assistance to a judge. The position of a Supreme Court Law Clerk is internationally considered to be among the most prestigious in the field of law, grooming young lawyers to go on to succeed in their respective fields, and give back to their country. The requirements and details of the position as well as instructions on how to apply are available on the Supreme Court website at this address: <https://www.supremecourt.gov.pk/situation-vacant-law-clerk/> Interested candidates may apply after going through the job requirements and application instructions laid out therein. The deadline to apply is 11:59 pm on 9th September 2022. For any further queries, please contact [scplawclerks@gmail.com](mailto:scplawclerks@gmail.com). - APP

**Media's role in building a positive image discussed**

Event was concluded by Zeeshan Shahid-Program Manager. NIC is optimistic about its plan to project a digital positive Pakistan and this collaboration with digital media will only take it to new heights

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Incubation Center (NIC) Islamabad hosted a one-day seminar that represented the digital future of Pakistan. The seminar was hosted by Parvez Abbasi, Project Director of NIC. The aim of the seminar was to create industrial linkages between NIC and Digital Media. The National Incubation Centre, Pakistan's largest innovation hub, was launched in 2016, in Islamabad. Developed to further the vision of a Digital Pakistan, by the Ministry of IT and Telecom and funded by Ignite - National Technology Fund, NIC Pakistan is the first of its kind. A shared space providing state-of-the-art facilities, a bridge between entrepreneurs, innovators, and investors. A place born to nurture and grow talent from across Pakistan, powered by Jazz and managed by Team up.



An esteemed panel of profound media industry experts joined the event. As the 4th pillar of state media goes hand in hand with promoting Pakistan's Positive image globally. The discussion was around exploring new avenues to project Pakistan as one of the leading change makers in South Asia. From startup community Saving9, Shadiyana and Recce were present at the event. These startups shared stories about their journey, their achievements, their ideas, and the impact these startups had on the Pakistani startup ecosystem. The discussion created a platform where startups and digital media can collaborate to create an enabling environment for the entrepreneurs of Pakistan. The event was concluded by Zeeshan Shahid-Program Manager. NIC is optimistic about its plan to project a digital positive Pakistan and this collaboration with digital media will only take it to new heights.

**IESCO issues power suspension schedule**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 25th August, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Lab. I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Bhal, Jarrar Camp, Bisali, Pind Jatla, Mushtaq Shaheed, Jalala, Nawababad, PMC Colony, Nar Topa, Visa, Anguri, Union Council Road, Masrial Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Multabad, Peshawar Road, Sagarpur, Abdullahpur, CWO, Jalalpur Sharif, Mandi Bhalwal, Jermot Feeders, From 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Abbaspur, Mandol, Farward Kahota, New Mandol, Sarari, Hajira, Bengo Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, NEW KLIAM, OLD KLIAM, HPT.III, INDUSTRIAL, NDC. I & II, I-10/3, PHA-I & II, 11/3, Metro, Islamic University, Bahria University, Dr. AQ Khan, I-10/2, NUST University, New Exchange, U Phone, PTCL, SES, Fazal Ghi, TB Hospital, Dhok Najho, Raja Sultan, Eid Gah, Baghsardara, Mohammadi Chowk, Sir Syed Street, Ali Market Feeders and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time and the surrounding power will be cut off. - APP

**CPO directs crackdown against firework godowns**

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari on Wednesday issued orders to launch crackdown against firecracker warehouses. According to police spokesman, teams have been formed to arrest the firecracker dealers. The teams would take action against the firecracker warehouses operating in the city whereas police would carry out operation in Ganjmandi area to arrest the dealers. The daily based operations would be conducted against firecracker godowns, and report would be submitted while cases would be registered against them without any discrimination, he added. - APP

**Pharma goods export decline 1.44% during July 2022**

ISLAMABAD: The export of Pharmaceutical goods witnessed a decrease of 1.44 percent during the first month of current fiscal year, against the exports of the corresponding period of last year. The country exported Pharmaceutical goods worth US \$23.970 million during July 2022 against the exports of US \$24.319 million during July 2021, showing a decline of 1.44 percent, according to a report issued by PBS. In term of quantity, the pharmaceutical goods export however increased by 35.69 percent from 2,303 metric ton to 3,125 metric ton, the data revealed. - APP

**PFC to take part in Intel expo in Vietnam**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a three-day International expo being held in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam from September 8 to discover business opportunities and explore new markets in Europe. CEO PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq presiding over board of directors meeting here on Wednesday said that PFC along Chenone will approach Trade Development Authority of Pakistan for participating in this international mega event, said a press release. - APP



## Briefs

## Shazia Marri criticizes PTI trolls

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri Wednesday criticized Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) trolls for using the flood situation to attack its opponents. "Shame on PTI trolls for using the flood situation to attack opponents", the federal minister said in a tweet. She continued, "Instead of helping people at a time like this, they choose to utter rubbish!". "Imran should have taught them better but obviously they follow an insensitive and irresponsible man, they are bound to behave this way", she said. - APP

## Evening shift still a nightmare for parents

ISLAMABAD: Admission in the downtown government's educational institutions of the federal capital has always been a nerve-wracking trial for parents especially when their children are compelled to join the institution in the evening shift. This year too, poor and middle class families were compelled to enroll their children in the evening shifts of the model colleges as morning shift institutions (both FG and Model) denied new admissions in first shift on the pretext of overcrowding in the classrooms. Those parents who were asked to admit their children in evening shift with an assurance of adjustment in morning after the summer vacation can be seen visiting principal's office in various institutions to request altering the shift but getting zero response. According to an official source, the core motive behind running evening shifts is to get multiple salaries ignoring the problems of parents and their kids. On the other hand, the parents are facing a plethora of issues and are worried over unnatural and unhealthy learning of their wards in the evening shift. Professor Nadeem, a psychologist said, "Students of evening shift schools do not perform brilliantly due to change in their sleep cycles which affect the hormones that regulates sleep. Changes in sleep habits have a significant effect on academic performance of students by reducing concentration and attention deficits in the classroom".

Moreover, it is very difficult for evening shift students to participate in social activities and have enough time to study, complete homework timely and go to bed at a reasonable time. He said that a two-shifts system is maintained due to natural disasters affecting the physical conditions of the school building, but is not recommended under normal circumstances. Some teachers teaching in the evening shift have concerns that the students particularly weak ones are not receiving the same education as compared with morning shift students. Similarly, the students in the evening shift are not engaged in the extracurricular activities which are essential for their healthy routine. - APP

## IRSA releases 381, 670 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 381, 670 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 397, 108 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550 feet, which was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded 224, 700 cusecs and outflow 224, 700 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1178.45 feet, which was 128.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 25, 438 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 266, 373, 445, 360 and 559, 816 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 81, 900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 37, 672 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi in a group photo with Korea-Pakistan parliamentary group of the National Assembly of Korea headed by Lee Hack Young. - DNA

## IWMB warns against bathing in Margallah springs

Rina mentioned that the wildlife species had dispersed in the National Park due to ample availability of water throughout the protected area and might not be spotted frequently inside the wild area of the trails

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has warned the hikers, tourists and visitors venturing into the scenic Margalla Hills National Park from bathing into the freshwater springs revived after heavy monsoon rains in the federal capital. Chairperson, IWMB, Rina Saeed Khan said, "I know it's exciting to see so much water in trails inside MHNP but swimming/ bathing in water, especially at Trail 5 is prohibited. IWMB patrolling has now been strengthened and all those people caught bathing/swimming will be dealt under Wildlife Ordinance."

The Hills National Park homes rich biodiversity and ecology spreading over an area of 17,000 hectares facing serious risks due to wild fires, arson, poaching, hunting and tree cutting. In an exclusive chat with APP, the chairperson said that the preservation and protection measures by the IWMB through public and community mobilisation helped control deforestation and enhance green cover in the protected area. Rina said the conservation efforts had also improved vegetation on the hiking trails and across the national park that replenished the aquifer of the Margalla Hills. She added that massive rains and vegetation had revitalized the water level in the springs that were empty for the past many years. "Water level has improved specially at Trail-6 where all water springs are filled with water stretching over some three kilometers area. Trail-6 is also a leopard preserve zone which is not open for public and hence has unprecedented green cover and plants in the area." The IWMB Chairperson said the IWMB rangers and patrolling staff also successfully removed Lantana camara which was

an invasive species that used to suck lots of water from underground reservoirs. She underlined that the IWMB staff patrolling was improved in the National Park to control tree cutting, pollution, littering in the protected area and bathing in the freshwater springs. "The water in springs to remain till the months of November and December this year as the experts claim. The aquifer of Margalla Hills National Park has also filled to its maximum which is almost 30 feet deep," she mentioned. According to Professor Dr. Zahid Baig Mirza, Senior Board Member IWMB, she said the overflowing water springs indicated replenished aquifer which had attained its maximum level after rains. Rina mentioned that the wildlife species had dispersed in the National Park due to ample availability of water throughout the

protected area and might not be spotted frequently inside the wild area of the trails. Margalla Hills National Park, she said, was the most well staffed national park of the country with a regular strength of 70 personnel with efficient management. The Board, she said, was awaiting federal cabinet's approval for the Islamabad Wildlife Management Act which was pending at the forum, adding, "The new legislation would help IWMB to penalize violators, charge fee for entering the national park and generate revenue." She added that the details of a recent order of Islamabad High Court also needed implementation by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration and Capital Development Authority (CDA). She also shared that the Board intended to create fence around the villages to prevent further encroachment by villages like Saidpur village. - APP

ISLAMABAD: The current account deficit shrank to \$1.2 billion in July from \$2.2 billion in June, largely reflecting a sharp decline in energy imports and a continued moderation in other imports, a data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said on Wednesday. "The narrower deficit is the result of wide-ranging measures taken in recent months to moderate growth and contain imports, including tight monetary policy, fiscal consolidation and some temporary administrative measures", the SBP said on its twitter handle. According to the data, the exports of goods rose from US\$ 2.235 billion in July 2021 to \$2.295 billion rose to \$2.9 billion in July this year. The imports on the other hand increased from \$5.371 billion to \$5.385 billion in the month under review. The overall trade deficit also shrank to \$3.090 billion as compared to the deficit of \$3.136 billion in July 2021. Similarly the trade deficit in services also shrank to \$260 million in July as compared to the deficit of \$287 million in same month of previous year. Deficit of primary income rose to \$403 million in July 2022 as compared to \$289 million in same month of the previous year. The combined deficit of goods, services, and primary income edged up to \$3.753 billion in the corresponding month while during same month of last year, the deficit was recorded at \$3.712 billion. Workers' remittances decreased to \$2.524 billion against \$2.736 billion in July 2022. - APP

## Current Account Deficit shrinks to \$1.2 billion

ISLAMABAD: The current account deficit shrank to \$1.2 billion in July from \$2.2 billion in June, largely reflecting a sharp decline in energy imports and a continued moderation in other imports, a data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said on Wednesday. "The narrower deficit is the result of wide-ranging measures taken in recent months to moderate growth and contain imports, including tight monetary policy, fiscal consolidation and some temporary administrative measures", the SBP said on its twitter handle. According to the data, the exports of goods rose from US\$ 2.235 billion in July 2021 to \$2.295 billion rose to \$2.9 billion in July this year. The imports on the other hand increased from \$5.371 billion to \$5.385 billion in the month under review. The overall trade deficit also shrank to \$3.090 billion as compared to the deficit of \$3.136 billion in July 2021. Similarly the trade deficit in services also shrank to \$260 million in July as compared to the deficit of \$287 million in same month of previous year. Deficit of primary income rose to \$403 million in July 2022 as compared to \$289 million in same month of the previous year. The combined deficit of goods, services, and primary income edged up to \$3.753 billion in the corresponding month while during same month of last year, the deficit was recorded at \$3.712 billion. Workers' remittances decreased to \$2.524 billion against \$2.736 billion in July 2022. - APP

## Death anniversary of Ansari observed

ISLAMABAD: The 17th death anniversary of famous comedy actor of television, radio and film, Jamsheer Ansari was observed on Wednesday. In a career spanning over 40 years, Ansari had to his credit over 200 TV dramas, three films and many radio and stage serials. His famous television plays include Uncle Urfi, Anka-hi, Tanhaayan, Half Plate, Jharokay, Zair Zabar Paish, and Ghora Ghaas Khaata Hai. He also played light roles in films Pakeeza, Aji Diyaan Kuryaan and Saughaat. Jamsheer Ansari was born on December 31, 1942, in the Saharanpur city of Uttar Pradesh in British India. In 1948, at the age of six, he, along with his family, migrated to Pakistan. He breathed his last on August 24, 2005. - APP

## 80% traffic blockade clears near Kandiyaru

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Motorway Police Khalid Mehmood on Wednesday said 80% of the traffic blocked near Kandiyaru has been resolved and the connectivity route was now opened for all types of traffic. IG motorway police directed all possible and timely assistance to the affected passengers and cautioned the commuters to avoid unnecessary travel in flood-affected areas, said the spokesperson of National Highway and Motorway Police. The Motorway Police urged the commuters to call 130 helpline to check road conditions before setting off on any journey. Moreover, the police officers were busy in assisting commuters on flood-hit national highways. - APP

## Over 0.1 mln children administered polio drops

ISLAMABAD: Over 100,000 children under the age of five were administered polio drops during the third-day of the anti-polio drive, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon informed the media on Wednesday. The deputy commissioner directed all the assistant commissioners to monitor activities of vaccination teams, particularly in those areas where confirmed polio cases and refusal cases had been reported. - APP

## Traders demand flowers market in I-8 Markaz



## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Traders Welfare Association, I-8 Markaz, Islamabad led by its President Raja Fayyaz Gul visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and apprised the ICCI Office Bearers about the key issues of their market. Zahid Qureshi Secretary General, Hameed Ahmed Abbasi Vice President, Arshad Khan Patron-in-Chief, Dr. Irshad Ahmed Khan, Sheikh Imran, Syed Azhar Zaman Hamdani, Naimmullah

Nomi, Hassan Sheraz, Zaheer Sadiq, Mohsin Raza, Omar Zamir Afridi, Syed Atir Ali Shah, Shahriyar Ahmed, Attiq Satti, Rana Jamshaid Ali, and others were in the delegation. Zahid Hussain, Chairman, All Pakistan Furniture Association, Abid Abbasi, President, G-10 Markaz, Saif ur Rehman Khan, Ch. Ashraf Farzand, Ch. Irfan, and others were also present at the occasion. Addressing the delegation, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that I-8 was one of the important commercial centre of Is-

lamabad and CDA should focus on its better development. He stressed that all unfinished development works should be expedited to improve the infrastructure in I-8 Markaz. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President and Khalid Chaudhry former Senior Vice President ICCI also spoke at the occasion and assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with Traders Welfare Association, I-8 Markaz in resolving the key issues of traders of the area.

## Cordial ties with global players imperative

## MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing global transformation marked by growing US-China rivalry, increasing US-India strategic relations, Russia-Ukraine conflict, and climate change posed serious challenges to Pakistan's foreign policy, said Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS. He was addressing a seminar organized by the Department of Strategic Studies at Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad. He added that Pakistan should consider realignments vis-vis global environment. Besides the global environment, regional

environment was also imperative. He asserted that we could not change our neighbors so it was vital to coexist with them. Pakistan needed to manage its relations with India, alongside dealing with Afghanistan, and the difficult relations with Iran, he said. He stressed the need for Pakistan to keep its ties unaffected with China, especially considering the fact that had taken a rather low-profile in recent past. He also highlighted that foreign policy was an extension of domestic policy so current political instability was posing a challenge to our foreign policy. Among other challenges, negative perceptions about Pakistan had always been a serious challenge. He further discussed that the strategic importance of Pakistan came at cost of various obstacles and that the most notable among Pakistan's involvement in bloc politics. While concluding the session, Ambassador Riyaz proposed solutions to the current trials that the country had been going through.

## Negligence of Doctors or negligence of people?



## MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

WE often hear that the patient died due to the negligence of the doctors. Many times, the death of the patient is considered to be negligence of the doctors and the hospitals are vandalized and many times the doctors were also tortured by the patient's attendants. In this regard, it is very important to inform the public about some facts. Due to the low

literacy rate in Pakistan, there is a lack of awareness among the people. Even today, a large number of people consider mental illness to be a ghost inside a person. A large number of people in Pakistan, when they are suffering from any disease, first take amulets or cure the disease by witchcraft. Those who treat the sick with witchcraft and amulets continue the treatment until the disease reaches the final stage. Amulets and sorcery healers also charge money from patients in the name of treatment until the patient is close to death. So-called spiritual healers are very clever when they sense that the condition of patient is getting worse, they advise to take patient to hospital. When the patient is admitted to the hospital, the condition is already bad and deteriorates rapidly, while the patient's family blames the doctors for the patient's bad condition. If such a patient dies in any hospital in Pakistan, doctors are immediately

accused of negligence. It is necessary to fasten the seat belt while driving vehicles and wear a helmet while riding motorbikes. Ten to fifteen percent of people fasten seat belts and motorbike riders wear helmets. Most of these ten to fifteen percent people fasten seat belts and helmets out of fear of the traffic police. Only one to five percent of people fastens seat belts and wear helmets to protect their lives. Due to the extremely low ratio of people fasten seat belts and wearing helmets, the serious condition of patients in mostly accidents. Accidents often result in head injuries and in the absence of effective first aid arrangements, the patient's condition becomes critical by the time they reach the hospital. The families of those who died due to their own mistake due to serious injuries in the accident also accuse the doctors of negligence. Unqualified doctors are busy practicing by putting up big

signboards in every street and every city and opening clinics. They have more patients than the clinics of qualified doctors. Because non-qualified doctors do not charge check-up fees and do not conduct clinical tests. So-called doctors take money from patients by giving medicines of unregistered companies. Such so-called doctors make patients suffer from more dangerous diseases by giving them an overdose of steroids. Instead of getting well from unqualified doctors, patients get more dangerous diseases. Even unqualified doctors stop when the patient is close to death. The final destination of such patients is the government hospital. Patients' own mistake of going to unqualified doctors at the beginning of the disease also becomes negligence of the doctors. Sixty percent of pregnant women in urban areas and ninety-five percent of pregnant women in rural areas do not go to Gynecologists for check-up and delivery, but go to

untrained midwives who are unable to take proper care of pregnant women. Untrained midwives spoil the delivery cases, so pregnant women are advised to go to the hospital when they are half-dead. Untrained midwives do not know what medicines should be given to pregnant women to relieve weakness. Untrained midwives also do not use gloves during delivery. Extreme weakness and critical delivery cases put doctors in trouble. If someone dies in such a delivery case, doctors are accused of negligence. Youths doing one-wheeling on motorbikes and performing various stunts did not even take safety measures. All motorcycle stunt performers end up in critical condition after accidents. Their parents also accuse the doctors of negligence instead of forbidding their children from such stunts. Before accusing doctors of negligence, people have to consider whether their relatives' death is due to doctors' negligence or their own negligence.



## Washington drags on Ukraine crisis

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict has given the world a shocking reminder of how things can change in a bad way within a short span of time. The direct victims of the conflict are the millions of Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes, as well as those fighting with each other on the battlefields and their families. The United Nations estimates that 12 million people have been forced from their homes in Ukraine, with 5 million having left the country altogether, in one of the biggest refugee crises Europe has ever seen. The large influx of refugees will have long-lasting impacts on the economy and social life of the host countries in Europe. Moreover, the conflict has worsened the world economy that is still struggling to recover from the impacts of the almost three-year COVID-19 pandemic, with Europe, in particular, caught up in an unprecedented energy crisis as a result of US-led sanctions on Russian oil and gas. Gas prices in Europe have already been setting records after Russia's energy giant Gazprom said it would entirely suspend the gas supply via the Nord Stream pipeline for three days for maintenance starting Aug 31. The uncertainty surrounding future supplies has driven benchmark European electricity prices to an "absurd level", more than 14 times its average in the 2010s. The approaching winter will make the energy shortage in Europe even acuter. The conflict has also exacerbated the global food crisis. The World Food Programme of the UN estimates that 345 million people in 82 countries are facing, or are at risk of, acute food insecurity today, compared with 135 million in 53 countries before the pandemic, as the Russia-Ukraine conflict has driven up the costs of food, fuel and fertilizers. Meanwhile, both sides have accused the other of shelling the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, raising fears of a nuclear disaster. And as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned "the risk of nuclear confrontation is back — something that we have forgotten for decades". There was a chance to change the trajectory of events, but it was squandered because of the selfishness and bigotry of some politicians in Washington. Now as the conflict drags on with no immediate end in sight, they are calling for sending more advanced weapons in larger quantities to Ukraine to "maximize their impact on the battlefield", a scenario which will only make things worse. There will be no winners in this conflict, whatever those safely ensconced in Washington may think. It is six months since the hostilities commenced, the two parties should sit down and seek a negotiated end to the fighting lest it become a long grindstone of attrition, or worse.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 26

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Hindutva hubris

IN a welcome surprise, police in India actually booked a former BJP legislator for "promoting hatred and enmity" after he was caught on tape calling for the lynching of Muslims. Gyan Dev Ahuja, a member of the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan from 2013 to 2018, also claimed, "We have so far lynched five people" and "given a free hand to workers to kill. We will get them acquitted and secure bail." The victims of the lynchings he referred to were all accused of smuggling cattle even though there was little proof that the victims were doing anything illegal in any of the cases. He also credited his workers with thrashing several other Muslims accused of smuggling cows. When reporters contacted Ahuja to seek clarification on his comments, he actually doubled down by saying anyone involved in cow smuggling and slaughter would not be spared. He also defended Hindutva mob violence several times, including during his time in office, and has been full of praise for so-called 'cow-vigilantes'. Although the BJP was quick to disassociate itself from Ahuja's words in the most recent instance, they actually echoed statements from several other BJP leaders, although the other leaders were not as explicit, usually relying on euphemisms. In fact, the BJP even denied him a ticket in 2018, reportedly as 'punishment' for his controversial comments. However, when he threatened to quit the party and run as an independent candidate, they rewarded him with a promotion, making him the number two man in the party's state unit. Opposition Indian National Congress leaders quickly pounced on Ahuja's comments, noting that they were proof of the "BJP's religious terror and bigotry". Indeed, when Ahuja made the comments, he was with leaders of the RSS and other Hindutva terrorist mills. And while BJP leaders have largely avoided explicitly calling for criminal actions against religious minorities, RSS leaders have often gone all in. Given that the RSS is also considered the parent party of the BJP, this in itself is proof of the extremist ideology of veteran BJP leaders.

## Brutality can't prosper

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

International community should remember that liberation from such atrocities and brutalities is the natural outcome. According to Geraldine L. Palmer and her colleagues, "At a collective or community level, liberation is only possible when the group is able to gain power and control over the systems, and institutions that surround their lives. Liberation is a social act, a process of becoming free from ideologies that limit our freedom..."

DESPITE huge military might, exceptional industrial potential and deep global penetration Israel failed to provide happy and peaceful life to Israelis. The eventual purpose of the progress and the development is to provide prosperous lifestyle to the nation but Israel remained terribly unsuccessful to realise this dream of millions of Jews because of fundamental flaw in the national approach which rests on oppression, occupation and brutalities against unarmed Palestinians. In spite of exceptional economic growth, erecting separation wall regardless of international condemnation and significant military capabilities Israeli citizens are subject to continuous threat of war and conflict. There is no comparison of fighting capabilities of Israeli defence forces and Palestinians.

According to the Global Fire Power (GFP) website, "For 2022, Israel is ranked 18 of 142 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review while Pakistan is ranked among top ten. Israel holds a Power Index (PwrIndx) score of 0.2621 (a score of 0.0000 is considered 'perfect'). The finalized Global Firepower ranking utilizes over 50 individual factors to determine a given nation's Power Index score with categories ranging from military might and financials to logistical capability and geography. The smaller 'PwrIndx' value the more powerful a nation's theoretical fighting capability is by conventional means as nuclear capability is not taken into account." How can anybody justify attacks of such a strong military on unarmed and civilian population of Palestine? A country with more than 40 thousand dollars GDP per capita being 31st biggest economy of the world with around 9 million of population can extend every peace and comfort to the citizens but Israel rendered nothing but incessant state of fear and unrest to its people.

Since we started learning about global dynamics we are witnessing brutalities of Israel on vulnerable Palestinians. After recent attacks of Israel on Gaza it was heart-breaking listening to a mother when she found her son has been martyred. Addressing a gathering while controlling her sorrow and grief she told age fellow of her son that my son has been shot but you all are like my son. My son followed the path of the prophets. He left for the beloved Creator. My son is the son of Palestine he is precious than my soul, I gave him to the Last Messenger, I gave him to Masjid Al-Aqsa, I gave him to the Creator, the One, the Eternal, the Satisfier of needs. Israel does this as a policy, according to Yuval Abraham, "The majority of Israelis believe that hundreds of children or families killed in Gaza during Israel's military operations are killed unintentionally unlike the terrorist organizations. The former soldiers testified that they were told by their superiors that there is a certain number of 'non-combat-

ants' — meaning families and children — that the army is allowed to kill during operational activities. The control of the borders, and the dependence of the strip's residents on Israel, provides Israel with superior intelligence. They have no way to get out of there. Israel controls all their crossings — that gives Israel a lot of power. If Gaza is connected to the West Bank, you lose some of that power. Today we control everything that goes in and out, whether physically, electronically, or in terms of people. This allows for more modes of action: for example, people in Gaza beg to be able to travel in order to study abroad or visit relatives outside the strip. There is no such thing as privacy in Gaza. You know everything about the person. What they like, what they have photographed [on their phone], and whether they have a lover. Everything is completely exposed. You can collect information about anyone you want. And you know that these people wouldn't want you to know these things."

Last year's report by the Amnesty International speaks volumes about brutalities of Israel. Report states, "During the armed conflict in May 2021, Israel committed apparent war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip. According to the OHCHR and the WHO, 242 Palestinians were killed, including 63 children, and some 9,000 were injured. More than 74,000 Palestinians were displaced. The housing needs of 4,000 families, including 7,000 children, whose homes were damaged or destroyed, had not been met by December. On the 10th May, Israel bombed the seawater desalination plant in north Gaza, cutting water supplies to more than 250,000 people."

In a latest report in February this year the agency states, "Israeli authorities must be held accountable for committing the crime of apartheid against Palestinians. Israel enforces a system of oppression and domination against the Palestinian people wherever it has control over their rights. Massive seizures of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible transfer, drastic movement

restrictions are all components of a system which amounts to apartheid under international law. This system is maintained by violations which Amnesty International found to constitute apartheid as a crime against humanity, as defined in the Rome Statute and Apartheid Convention. Amnesty International is calling on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to consider the crime of apartheid in its current investigation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and calls on all states to exercise universal jurisdiction to bring perpetrators of apartheid crimes to justice."

International community should remember that liberation from such atrocities and brutalities is the natural outcome. According to Geraldine L. Palmer and her colleagues, "At a collective or community level, liberation is only possible when the group is able to gain power and control over the systems, and institutions that surround their lives. Liberation is a social act, a process of becoming free from ideologies that limit our freedom and the institutions or structures that constrain people's collective determination. Liberation must be understood as having a critical consciousness of the circumstances and conditions of oppression that challenge and limit opportunities for freedom. Liberation is the dismantling of oppression and power, and striving to recognize the humanity and dignity of all people."

Israel should also learn from 20 years of NATO allied forces in Afghanistan which resulted in a cost around two and a half trillion dollars with eventual withdrawal without any significant achievement except increasing burden to their budgets. We all should respect and support the desire and struggle of Palestinians for liberation from never-ending brutalities of Israel because as Martin Luther King said, "The silence of good people is more dangerous than the brutality of the bad people."

— The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences; Head of Center of Islamic Finance, COMSATS University (CU) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk

## Europe's drought could have a long afterlife

Stephen Mihm

The hypothesis that extreme weather can pave the way for pandemics has also been invoked to explain the severity of the Black Death. In the 1330s, anomalous weather events left Europe devastated and malnourished. Different groups of researchers have argued that the resulting poor harvests left the region's population especially vulnerable to Yersinia pestis, the bacterium that ravaged the region beginning in 1341. A little more than a century later, another bout of extreme weather generated entirely different problems

EUROPE has been burning. As a brutal drought and record-breaking heat gripped the continent this summer, crops withered and forest fires raged. Thunderstorms have been cooling things off but are not expected to end the drought and may even create new problems of their own: flash flooding and falling trees.

The apocalyptic weather is not without precedent, as the re-emergence of centuries-old "hunger stones" in the continent's river beds attest. But as climate change makes such crises more frequent, it's worth remembering an important point: Historical episodes of meteorological mayhem have sowed chaos, fuelling everything from social unrest to pandemics. Consider the drought that hit central Europe in 69 AD. The Roman historian Tacitus remains our best source on this disaster. He wrote that the legions sent to deal with the restive German tribes that year were in a "bad temper" because "the Rhine [was] scarcely navigable by reason of a drought unprecedented in that climate." This explained the soldiers' other grievances: "want of pay and food." Beginning in 2003, Europe has sustained a number of crushing heatwaves and droughts, with 2022 arguably the worst on record. Tacitus reported that the superstitious Germans "construed the scarcity of water" as evidence that "the very rivers, those ancient safeguards of the Empire, were deserting us" on account of "the anger of the Rhine God" toward the Romans. And judging from what went down in Rome in 69 AD, the Rhine God was angry indeed. That was the infamous "Year of the Four Emperors," when ill-fated legions joined a civil war between the different factions vying for supremacy in Rome. The soldiers in Germania threw their lot with a portly contender named Vitellius, who was eventually overthrown after a bloody battle. Vitellius ended up dead, as did tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers alike. The relationship between bad weather and mutinous soldiers was not restricted to this particular episode. In

2018, an economic historian compared data on weather in ancient Rome with the assassination of Roman emperors. He found a strong statistical correlation between droughts in northern frontier provinces and assassinations of emperors back in Rome. Caveat imperator! Other studies of climate in ancient Rome have suggested tantalising, if speculative, links between drought-induced famine and subsequent outbreaks of disease, such as the Plague of Justinian. Bad weather may have sowed the seeds of famine, leaving behind a population vulnerable to the predations of a novel pathogen.

The hypothesis that extreme weather can pave the way for pandemics has also been invoked to explain the severity of the Black Death. In the 1330s, anomalous weather events left Europe devastated and malnourished. Different groups of researchers have argued that the resulting poor harvests left the region's population especially vulnerable to Yersinia pestis, the bacterium that ravaged the region beginning in 1341. A little more than a century later, another bout of extreme weather generated entirely different problems. After several years of brutal heat in the early 1470s — what one Belgian chronicler referred to as "an unprecedented and anomalous drought [that] afflicted the whole world" — rivers dried up, crops failed, and many people went, well, crazy. In Spain, political leaders blamed the "converters" — Jews who had converted to Christianity — for the bad weather and burnt them at the stake. It was neither the first nor last time that bad weather begat anti-Semitism. What was arguably the worst "megadrought" of the past millennium played out the following century in the summer of 1540. Rivers, springs and wells dried up. Lake Constance, one of Europe's deepest and largest lakes, lost so much water that people walked to former islands. Temperatures must have been excruciating. In France, townspeople huddled in cellars not long after sunrise, hoping to escape the heat. One French chronicler noted that the wine grapes were "roasted

and the leaves of the vines had fallen to the ground like after a severe frost." Throughout the continent, forest fires erupted, much as they have now. A Swiss account from late July 1540 reported that it was "unbearably hot [with] everybody complaining of water shortages. Forests were burning everywhere around."

Buildings burst into flames as well. Thanks to the meticulous record-keeping of the Germans, we know that 1540 enjoys the dubious distinction of witnessing more fires in towns than any other peacetime year since 1000 AD. Judging from the anecdotal evidence in other countries, Germany was hardly alone.

The fires lent the sky a ghoulish glow, with many observers reporting that both the sun and moon were wreathed in a blood-red aura. Though many centuries had passed since the time of Tacitus, the Germans and other Europeans greeted these signs with similar superstition, viewing them as portents of evil. Many people soon became convinced that hordes of murderous arsonists — "Mordenbrunner" — were setting the fires.

A search for suspects followed. In some places, Protestants fingered Catholics, suspecting papal intrigue in deadly conflagrations. Elsewhere, local authorities arrested more conventional scapegoats: vagrants and beggars and outsiders — basically, anyone who didn't belong. In classic late-medieval style, authorities tortured suspects to secure "confessions" of perfidy. Non-stop fires, blood-red skies, scorching heat, failed harvests and collective paranoia all conspired to make peasants terribly peevish. Mercifully, similarly brutal conditions did not return until 1921. Climate change has ushered in a new era. Beginning in 2003, Europe has sustained a number of crushing heatwaves and droughts, with 2022 arguably the worst on record. The historical record would tell us to watch out: Extreme weather, whatever the cause, leaves chaos in its wake. That's cold comfort indeed.

— Courtesy: Gulf News



## Briefs

## PM all...

FROM PAGE 01

sectors; boost cooperation in the fields of energy; encourage and facilitate Qatar's investments in Pakistan's renewable energy, tourism and hospitality sectors; provide more opportunities to Pakistanis interested in working in Qatar; and expand cooperation in defence, aviation and maritime domains. Lauding Qatar's remarkable economic transformation, the Prime Minister congratulated the Qatari leadership for its visionary and forward-looking approach and wished the Qatari people more success in the future.

## Imran Khan...

FROM PAGE 01

magistrate under Section 7 of anti-Terrorism act (ATA). Sources privy to the matter said that the Margalla police have registered a case under the complaint of magistrate Ali Javed against the former prime minister on charges of hate speech. According to the FIR, Imran Khan threatened and terrorized state organs and tried to pressurize the judiciary and the police. During the rally, he threatened the Islamabad IG, a woman magistrate and the DIG, the FIR added.

## Qatar...

FROM PAGE 01

billion depending on the asset valuations and opportunities, the people said, without sharing a time frame. The Qatari ruler's office confirmed the plan to invest in Pakistan in a statement posted on its website. The decision came during a meeting between ruler Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Qatar is pledging its support for Pakistan to help ease the country's funding crunch and the consequent risk of a default. Prime Minister Sharif has been visiting Qatar ahead of an IMF board meeting next week that could lead to the release of \$1.2 billion in financing. Arab nations committed to supporting the country only after it secured a program from the Washington-based lender.

## Time ripe...

FROM PAGE 01

announce the election date or else he was preparing the nation and would soon give the 'final call' for a march on the federal capital. He said that on his new call, a sea of people would come from every corner of the country, as the imported government was just limited to Islamabad. Imran Khan said that PTI ruled in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, GB and AJK and the passionate tigers of PTI of these areas were ready to topple the government of thieves. He asked Chief Minister KP Mehmood Khan and Pervaz Khattak PTI KP President to compete the party organizational structure as they have left with little time, as the battle entered into defining moment. Talking about terrorism charges framed against him, PTI chairman said that he only announced taking legal action against the police officials and female judge, but he was charged in a terrorism case.

## Korea pledges to increase e-gaming co-op with Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Lee Sangheon, a senior member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea who is visiting Pakistan as part of a parliamentary delegation, held a meeting today with a renowned Pakistan e-gamer, Mr. Bilal Ilyasat Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The meeting took place in the backdrop of the Evolution Championship Series "Evo 2022", which is the largest and longest-running fighting game tournaments in the world, and was held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

On 8th August, 2022, in the final round of the Tekken (a street fight video game), an e-gamer from Pakistan Imran Khan came head to head for this championship trophy with Jae-Min Bae of Korea and despite the time difference between Las Vegas and Korea, hundreds of thousands of young Korean e-gamers tuned in to watch the spectacular match. Noting the significance of this game and e-gaming in general in both of the countries, Mr. Lee Sangheon presented fifty sets of "make stick pro and knee lever-I" kits to Bilal, to be distributed amongst other aspiring e-gamers of Pakistan and to incentivize them towards honing their skills further with the right equipment and preparing themselves for international competitions. Bilal highlighted that there is no proper e-gaming infrastructure and official e-sports association present in Pakistan which can harness the e-gaming potential of the coun-



try. Mr. Lee Sangheon acknowledging this stated that he foresees great potential in further enhancing relationships between

the countries through the medium of e-gaming cooperation, and offered to be the focal person for Korea and pledged to focus on

the development and growth of e-gaming industry in Pakistan with the coordination of young e-gamers such as Mr. Bilal Ilyas.

## Govt must provide athletics ground, says Arhsad Nadeem

"I'll prepare well for the Olympics 2024. I'm working on my injury and the athletics federation has supported me tremendously for that. Doctors have also done a great job for my recovery" he said

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's ace javelin thrower and Commonwealth Games gold-medalist Arshad Nadeem urged the government to furnish a dedicated athletics ground for the local players and pressed hope that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would take steps for the betterment of athletic sports in the country. While speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday, Arshad stated that his counterpart Neeraj Chopra had been the best facilities in his country and expressed hope that he would get the due support.

"India's Neeraj Chopra is getting the best facilities right now, I hope that everyone will support me too," he said. Arshad revealed that he was currently working on his injury and would undergo vigorous training before the Paris Olympics 2024. "I'll prepare well for the Olympics 2024. I'm working on my injury and the athletics federation has supported me tremendously for that. Doctors

have also done a great job for my recovery" he said. While commenting on his meeting with PM Shehbaz tomorrow, the 25-year-old athlete expressed optimism that the premier would take measures for the advancement of athletics in the country. Furthermore, Arshad hailed the Water and Power Development Authority (WAP-DA) for extending financial support to the national athletes and asked the government to provide a dedicated athletics ground.

"WAPDA is the biggest players' support platform in our country. I wish that the private sector too will continue to promote our local players and we will achieve more success in the future by working together" he said. "The government should provide us with an athletics ground," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that Arshad created history in the Commonwealth Games 2022 for Pakistan as he clinched a gold medal in the javelin with his record throw of 90.18 meters. He also won gold in the Islamic Solidarity Game held in Konyo, Turkey.



## Pakistan finalises squad for SAFF Women Cup

DNA

KARACHI: The coaching staff of the Pakistan women's football team has decided to retain at least seven members from the team that last played an international match for Pakistan in 2014 in the squad for the upcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women Cup. Reliable sources have confirmed that the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has already finalised the list of 23 players, which also includes two overseas players, for the SAFF Women Cup that is scheduled to commence in Nepal on September 6. UAE-based Maria Khan and UK-based Nadia Khan will also represent Pakistan in the next month's tournament. Other players picked for Pakistan's squad include Alina Isphani, Anmool Hira, Ghazala Aamir, Khadija Kazmi, Marvi Baig, Nizalia Siddique, Sara Khan, Shahida Amin, Shanza Nazir and Suha Hirani. PFF had earlier announced 35 players for the training camp in Lahore and after two weeks, the camp was curtailed to 25 players.

## Court suspends Thai PM Prayut from office

AGENCIES

BANGKOK: Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday suspended Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha from office while it considers a legal challenge that could see him thrown out months before an expected general election. The court agreed unanimously to hear a case brought by opposition parties who argue Prayut has reached the end of his eight-year term limit as prime minister. Judges also agreed by five votes to four to suspend Prayut from office until the case is decided, the court said in a statement. "The court considered the petition and supporting documents and deems the facts according to the request indicate reasonable grounds to suspect that there is a case as requested," the statement said. "Thus, a majority vote (five against four) for (Prayut) to be suspended as prime minister, effective August 24, 2022, until the court issues a verdict." The court gave Prayut 15 days to respond to the case against him. Prawit Wongsuwan, one of Prayut's deputies and another former army chief, will take over as caretaker prime minister while the case is decided. "The current cabinet will continue its duty as normal because General Prayut has not been ousted from his post, only suspended from duty," said Wissanu Krea-ngam, another deputy prime minister. Pita Limjaroenrat, leader of the opposition Move Forward Party which was among those that backed the petition, said the country needed fresh leadership. "It is like rowing a boat round the bathtub, going from General Prayut to General Prawit," Pita told reporters at parliament. It is not the first time the Constitutional Court has played a role in Thai politics - it cancelled the results of general election in 2006 and 2014. The kingdom's 2017 constitution bars the prime minister from serving more than eight years in total, and opposition parties say Prayut, who took power in a 2014 coup, has reached the limit.

## Too early to compare Babar Azam with Kohli

LAHORE: Legendary Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram backed Virat Kohli to come back to form while stating that Babar Azam has a long way to go before he can be compared with Virat Kohli. Wasim Akram threw his weight behind Virat Kohli ahead of the Asia Cup, backing the former India skipper to come back to form and said that he felt Kohli copped some unfair criticism for his lack of form. "The fans and media have been criticizing Virat Kohli quite unfairly in the social media," Akram said in the Asia Cup special show on Star Sports while chatting with Ravi Shastri. "He is one of the greatest of all time, not just in this era. He still fits as a fiddle. He is still one of the best fielders in the Indian squad. As they say class is forever and that is Virat Kohli. Hope he doesn't come back to form against Pakistan but he will come back eventually." Shastri, who was until recently the head coach of the Indian side, pointed at the workload on all three formats taking a toll on Kohli, while saying that he felt the break would help Kohli get back to his best. "I recently came across a stat during India-England Test match that Kohli has played over three times the number of games as compared to his top rivals like Steve Smith, Kane Williamson and Joe Root. Leading India in all three formats of the game take a heavy toll and I believe this break will be good for him," Shastri said. - DNA

## Biden...

FROM PAGE 01

attacks have only strengthened Ukrainians' pride in themselves, in their country, and in their thirty-one years of independence." Al Jazeera's Kimberly Halkett, reporting from the White House, said the package marked "a real shift in posture" because the support will be used for "buying and purchasing [military equipment] for the long term". "Initially, what US security assistance [for Ukraine] was focused on was immediate needs. In other words, the Pentagon supplied what it had in stock, and shifted it over as quickly as possible," Halkett said. "But now, what this is going to be is the utilising of [US] Department of Defense contracts to purchase for the long term."

## US, Iran...

FROM PAGE 01

blocked and eventually reversed in January 2025," said Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. The recent indictment of an Iranian for plotting to murder Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton and the attack by an apparent Iran sympathizer on the author Salman Rushdie have further contributed to doubts that Iran can be trusted. The latest draft does not include Tehran's demand that the US lift the terrorism designation of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps, and Iran has stepped back from a demand that the International Atomic Energy Agency close its investigation into unexplained traces of uranium at three undeclared sites, according to a senior administration official who requested anonymity to discuss ongoing efforts to resurrect the deal.

## Rains kill...

FROM PAGE 10

Sherry. Given the scale of the disaster, there is no question of the provinces or even Islamabad being able to cope with this magnitude of climate catastrophe on their own. Lives are at risk, and thousands are homeless. It is important that international partners mobilise assistance. The Indus is in high floods where flow of over 600,000 cusecs is expected to cross Guddu and then Sukkur Barages on 23rd and 24th of August, 2022 which will bring all the Katcha area along Indus under water, displacing thousands of families. This is in addition to the current displacement. In terms of precious human lives, 216 lives have been lost to the floods in Sindh. An estimated 1,500,000 katcha houses have been damaged and crops cultivated on 1,989,868 acres have been completely destroyed in Sindh.

## US airstrikes...

FROM PAGE 01

Nasser Kanaani said, according to the ministry's telegram channel. "The US attack on Syrian infrastructure and people is a violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The sites targeted had no links to the Islamic Republic," Kanaani said. The European Union has proposed an agreement to restore the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, to which the US plans to respond. The deal was abandoned by former President Donald Trump, but Biden has sought to revive it.



HALIFAX: Parliamentary delegation from Pakistan headed by Speaker National Assembly, Pervaiz Ashraf met with George J. Furey, Speaker of the Senate of Canada on sidelines of the 65thCPC in Halifax Canada. - DNA

## Richards thrilled to be reuniting with Miandad

The inaugural edition of the tournament will run from 6-21 October at the headquarters of Pakistan cricket, the Gaddafi Stadium

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Two cricket legends Sir Vivian Richards of the West Indies and Pakistan's Javed Miandad, will reunite at October's Pakistan Junior League after King Viv was named as one of the team mentors by the Pakistan Cricket Board. Richards joins Javed, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Darren Sammy, Colin Munro and Imran Tahir as league mentors. The inaugural edition of the tournament will run from 6-21 October at the headquarters of Pakistan cricket, the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Richards and Miandad dominated world cricket with their breathtaking talent and match-winning performances in the 1970s and 80s. They last

played against each other in the Nehru Cup final in Kolkata on 1 November 1989 when Pakistan won by four wickets with one ball remaining. Richards

has also been a part of Quetta Gladiators' campaign in six of seven HBL Pakistan Super Leagues and also helped them win the title in 2019.



**AUGUST 2022**  
Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:  
www.centrelines.com.pk  
www.dnanews.com.pl  
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of  
**Islamabad POST**

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165





## Briefs

## Committed by Arab boycott of Israel: Tunisia

DNA

TUNIS: Tunisia said it is committed by the Arab boycott of Israel. Last week, activists circulated media reports on social media about trade exchange between Tunisia and Tel Aviv, a claim dismissed by the Tunisian Ministry of Trade. "Tunisia is committed by the rules and principles of the Arab boycott within relevant agreements at the level of the Arab League," the ministry said in a statement. The ministry said Tunisia has refused to apply the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which covers international trade in goods, regarding Israel since the North African nation joined it in 1990. The ministry said it bans foreign companies and transport firms "that violate the principles and rules of the boycott to Israel." In 1954, the Cairo-based Arab League endorsed a resolution to boycott Israel following its creation in historical Palestine. In 2020, four Arab countries – the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco – normalized relations with Israel under US-sponsored agreements. The four nations joined Egypt and Jordan, which signed peace agreements with Israel in 1979 and 1994.

## US carries out airstrikes in eastern Syria

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US military announced early Wednesday that it carried out airstrikes against Iran-affiliated groups in eastern Syria.

"At President (Joe) Biden's direction, U.S. military forces conducted precision airstrikes in Deir ez-Zor, Syria today. These precision strikes are intended to defend and protect U.S. forces from attacks like the ones on August 15 against U.S. personnel by Iran-backed groups," a statement by US Central Command said.

"The U.S. strikes targeted infrastructure facilities used by groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," it added. US action against Iran comes at a time when a draft agreement to revive a 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran has been proposed by the European Union. The statement did not mention whether there were any casualties.

## South Korea sees lowest childbirth rate

DNA

SEOUL: South Korea recorded the lowest childbirths in 40 years during the second quarter of this year while deaths rose to an all-time high, local media reported on Wednesday. During the April-June period, 59,961 babies were born across the country, showing a 9.3% decline from the previous year, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing Statistics Korea's latest data.

This is the lowest childbirth during the second quarter since 1981. The East Asian country is facing a decline in childbirth because many young people are distancing themselves from marriage, and having children due to the lack of decent job opportunities, high home prices, and heavy private education fees. The country's death rate, however, increased during this period. A record number of 90,406 people died, recording a 20% increase from the previous year, according to the report. South Korea's population has also decreased over the last 32 months. In 2020, the government announced more incentives for families to encourage more births amid falling figures.

Despite the government's efforts, the country's total fertility rate, which refers to the average number of children a woman bears in her lifetime, came to 0.75 in the second quarter, down from 0.92 a year earlier, the agency reported.

## 'Pak-Iran Trade Exhibition' to enhance co-op in trade

A three-day, 'Pakistan-Iran Trade Exhibition' is being organized here from August 24-26 with the aim of enhancing co-op between two countries for mutual trade and investment

ISLAMABAD: The Speakers in the exhibition on Wednesday said that the 'Pakistan-Iran Trade Exhibition' will help in bringing the business community of both countries closer and promoting mutual investment. Addressing the Pakistan-Iran trade exhibition, the speakers said that Pakistan and Iran are located at an important geo strategic position, which will facilitate the development of regional trade and the achievement of Geo-economic goals by the countries of the region.

A three-day, 'Pakistan-Iran Trade Exhibition' is being organized here from August 24-26 with the aim of enhancing cooperation between the two countries for mutual trade and investment. This trade exhibition was organized under the auspices of the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad with the support of Iran National Innovation Fund and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare Iran.

Meanwhile addressing the Pakistan-Iran trade exhibition on this occasion, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini said that the purpose



of the Pakistan-Iran trade exhibition is to increase cooperation in the fields of trade, industry and investment in both countries.

The Ambassador said that such trade and industrial exhibitions and conferences in both the countries will prove helpful in bringing the business communities of both the countries closer. Ambassador Mohammad Ali Hosseini said that 33 companies from Iran are participating in this three-day exhibition, including

11 knowledge-based companies that are working on science, technology and innovation. He said that various sectors including Information Technology, Telecom, Dairy and food industry, Kitchen wares, Technology, Carpet and Science and technology companies are participating in the exhibition.

The Ambassador said that various companies of Pakistan are also participating in the exhibition from cloth, handicrafts, jewelry and

many other sectors. He said that recently Pakistan Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) talks have been held in Pakistan and Iran has assured promotion of mutual trade between the two countries. The aim of which is to increase the volume of trade between the two countries, which will increase mutual cooperation in many fields, he said. He said that after these negotiations, agreements were also signed between the two countries in

four different fields. Meanwhile, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman Senate Committee for Defence, said that relations between Pakistan and Iran are reaching new heights in economic, trade and diplomatic sides. He said that Pakistan and Iran are facing hardships and both countries are moving forward in their excellent relations. Mushahid Hussain said that the work on the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline will

also be completed, which will promote cooperation in the energy sector in both countries and fulfill Pakistan's energy needs.

He said that Pakistan and Iran have a very important role in regional trade and economic integration, which will promote regional trade. Senator Hussain said that holding this exhibition creates trade and economic ties between the two countries and it will have a very important impact on the region. – APP



TAJKISTAN: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif Meets with his Tajik Counterpart in a sideline meeting prior to SCO summit 2022. – APP

## Pakistani pine nuts exports to China \$41.48 mln in first seven months

BEIJING: Pakistani Pine nuts exports to China in the first seven months of this year crossed \$41.48 million, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday quoting official data of China's General Administration of Customs. The data showed that during January-July of 2022, China imported 3,770.76 tons of pine nuts from Pakistan worth \$41.48 million while in the same period, China imported 11,513.7 tons of pine nuts around the world valuing about \$88.020 million. Overall, China has imported \$88.020 million of pine nuts and out of that 47.12% is from Pakistan. Yar Muhammad Niazi, Chief Executive of Hangzhou Aiza Food, and Shaoying Aiza Trading told Gwadar Pro that the export of Pakistani pine nuts to China enjoys zero tariffs and Pakistani pine nuts are classified as high-end snacks in the Chinese market. "The overall price of Pakistani pine nuts in the Chinese market is on the rise. This year's season will start in late September and our target is to export 1,500 tons to China. – DNA

## Finnish PM defends work record after party controversy

HELSINKI: Finland's prime minister gave a forceful defence of her work record and her right to a private life after criticism sparked by a video of the 36-year-old partying. "I am human. And I too sometimes long for joy, light and fun amidst these dark clouds," Sanna Marin said as she fought to hold back tears at her SDP event in Lahti city, north of Helsinki. "It's private, it's joy, and it's life," she said. "But I haven't missed a single day of work." Marin said the last week had been "quite difficult". "I want to believe that people will look at what we do at work rather than what we do in our spare time," she said. A video leaked last week – which caused headlines around the world – showed Marin dancing and partying with a group of friends and celebrities. Her dancing in the video has been criticised by some as inappropriate behaviour for a prime minister, while others have defended her right to enjoy a private event with friends.



Some comments on the video as to narcotics, something heavily debated on social media and strongly criticised by the prime minister. – Agencies

## Fighting resumes in Ethiopia after 5-month lull

ADDIS ABABA: Fighting erupted between government forces and Tigrayan rebels in northern Ethiopia on Wednesday, shattering a five-month truce and dealing a blow to peace talks. Within hours, reports of fresh offensives were followed by Ethiopia's air force announcing it had downed a plane carrying weapons for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) that encroached on the country's airspace via neighbouring Sudan. The government and the Tigray rebels have accused each other of undermining efforts to peacefully resolve the brutal 21-month war in Africa's second most populous nation, and traded blame over who was responsible for returning to combat. UN chief Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply shocked" by the renewed fighting and appealed for an "immediate cessation of hostilities and for the resumption of peace talks". The TPLF said government forces and their allies had launched a "large scale" offensive towards southern Tigray early Wednesday after a months-long lull in fighting. – Agencies

## NATO allies need to invest more in defense: Stoltenberg

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: NATO allies need to invest more in defense spending as "we live in a more dangerous world," the alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Wednesday. Speaking to British outlet Sky News in an exclusive interview, Stoltenberg said that, as a former politician, he knew it was always "more tempting" to invest in health care, education, and infrastructure. But, he added, "when we live in a more dangerous world, when we see the aggressive actions of (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin against a sovereign, peaceful nation in Europe, Ukraine and all the threatening rhetoric against NATO allies, then we need to invest more." Stoltenberg said that the UK and US were spending more than 2% of their GDP – the NATO guideline figure – on defense, adding, "we need to do more together." "More and more allies actually spend 2% or more on defense, and those who are not... have clear plans in place" to reach to that goal, the NATO top official said. Responding to a question on alleged deliberate damage to a nuclear reactor in Ukraine by Russian forces, Stoltenberg said it was "a very dangerous situation," for Ukraine and the whole of Europe. He said it was "dangerous and it's reckless of Russia" that its forces were using the survey area around the Zaporizhzhya facility, which is Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, as a "launching pad for artillery for attacks on Ukrainian forces."



"So therefore, we need the International Atomic Energy Agency to have access to be able to inspect the site, we need the Russians to move their forces away from the nuclear power plant, and we need the Ukrainian operators to be able to do their work in a peaceful and controlled environment," Stoltenberg added. He said that Russia had launched its war against Ukraine in 2014 with the illegal annexation of Crimea and the deployment of forces in the eastern Donbas region, where Moscow also supported separatist forces. "So, Russian aggression against Ukraine didn't start in February this year. It started eight years ago." "Then, of course, what they saw this year was a full-fledged invasion. And that was an invasion they have planned for many months," he added.

## Macron warns French of tough times ahead

Macron, who won a second presidential mandate in April but then lost his overall majority in parliament, faces tough challenges in the next few months, including persuading reluctant lawmakers to pass the 2023 budget

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron warned the French on Wednesday of tough months ahead as the world faces "a big shift", with government spokesman Olivier Veran adding that the cap on energy prices will have to end. The billion euro energy price cap, which has helped households cope with soaring inflation, looks set to expire this winter, the government said. Gas prices in France are currently frozen and there is currently a cap on power price hikes. Both have helped keep French inflation lower than many of its EU peers but are weighing heavily on the

public purse. Furthermore, pension and unemployment benefit scheme reforms are also in the works and will likely trigger street protests. Unions swiftly rejected Macron's call for sacrifices to be made, saying workers needed higher pay to cope with rising inflation. Macron, who won a second presidential mandate in April but then lost his overall majority in parliament, faces tough challenges in the next few months, including persuading reluctant lawmakers to pass the 2023 budget. Addressing the first cabinet meeting since the summer break, Macron, tanned but sound-



ing solemn, said the world faced the end of an easy abundance of goods and resources and "of a certain

carefreeness". "The moment we are living... may seem to be structured by a series of crises,

each more serious than the other," he said, referring to the drought, fires and storms that have hit France during the summer as well as the war in Ukraine and disruptions to global trade. "Freedom has a cost," Macron said referring to Ukraine. "I believe that what we are going through is rather a big shift, a big change," Macron said, urging his ministers to be ambitious and the French to face this new reality. Philippe Martinez, the head of the CGT labour union, told BFM TV after Macron's comments that protests in September would call for measures to boost wages and limit price increases.

But Philippe Gosselin, a lawmaker for the opposition conservative Les Republicains, said Macron needed to press ahead with his proposed reforms. "It's back to reality," Gosselin told Reuters. Macron, who also said the government would step up its fight against climate change, had another message for his ministers - and those who oppose his plans. "I also expect seriousness and credibility in the face of such anxieties, such challenges," Macron said. "It can be appealing to say what people want to hear... but you must first ask yourself the question of efficiency," the French president. – Agencies

## South African inflation hits new 13-year high

JOHANNESBURG: Inflation in South Africa accelerated to its highest level in 13 years in July, pushed mainly by surging food, transport and electricity prices, official data showed Wednesday as workers staged protests over the high cost of living. Consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 7.8 percent in July, up from 7.4 percent in June, the national statistics agency StatsSA said in a statement. The publication of the latest statistics coincided with protests in major cities over the worsening economic conditions, which have been particularly crushing for the poorest in the continent's most industrialised country. Strikers led by South Africa's two largest trade unions called for government action to combat rising poverty and the cost of living in the world's most unequal country. While the new inflation figure is bad news for consumers, economists see the country likely reaching a tipping point and believe inflation could ease in the coming months.

This "is likely the peak in the current inflation cycle," according to Investec bank chief economist Annabel Bishop. "Inflation will be lower this time next year," said Dawie Roodt, an economist with the financial services firm Efficient Group. Inflation has been soaring worldwide, fuelled by supply chain disruptions after the easing of Covid restrictions as well as surging energy and food prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. For South Africans, it has resulted in rising costs for necessities including food, electricity, fuel and medication, the statistics agency said. – APP

Inflation 'eats up' German savings: Study

DNA

BERLIN: Inflation has largely exhausted the savings that Germans had accumulated over the past two years of the pandemic, a new study found. The Ifo Institute in its study found that households had 70 billion (\$69.7 billion) more money in their bank accounts between the second quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, compared to the same period in usual years. "Inflation eats up surplus savings... The data from the balance sheet statistics of financial institutions shows that these surplus deposits had been almost completely eliminated by the end of the first quarter of 2022," the institute said. It was revealed that the depletion in savings remained almost unchanged in the second quarter of 2022 and that German consumers have been increasingly using their savings since the end of last year. Timo Wollmershauser, head of the Research and Economic Forecast at the institute, said: "High inflation may have been the driving force behind the spending of these household savings." According to the German Federal Statistics Office (Destatis), inflation in the country, which was 7.6% in June, was at 7.5% in July.

## UK's TUC launch campaign for higher wage

DNA

LONDON: UK's Trade Union Congress (TUC) launched a campaign on Wednesday to increase the minimum wage to £15 (\$17.74) an hour amid a biting cost-of-living crisis. The TUC is a federation of trade unions in England and Wales. TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady said: "Millions of low-paid workers live wage packet to wage packet, struggling to get by – and they are now being pushed to the brink by eye-watering bills and soaring prices." "Ministers promised a high wage economy time and time again, but they need a real plan to deliver it – not just a convenient political slogan," she said. The minimum wage for those aged 23 and over is currently £9.50 (\$11.23), and is expected to rise to £10.50 (\$12.53) next year. The TUC wants to introduce sectoral pay bargaining, like in Germany, France, and Sweden, which would allow unions and businesses to negotiate minimum pay across entire industries.



**Briefs**

**ECP postpones Karachi division LG polls**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday postponed Local Government (LG) elections in Karachi division as recommended by Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh, due to inclement weather and non availability of law enforcers. A spokesman of the Commission said in a statement that the decision to postpone LG polls was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh told the meeting via video link that there would be severe issues in transporting over 63,000 polling staff especially women staff to 4,900 polling stations due to flooding and other related issues. Sindh Chief Secretary, Inspector General Police, and law enforcement agencies also presented reports recommending postponement. Election Commission Secretary, in his report said that Meteorological Department director general in his report predicted that torrential rains would lash Karachi from August 27 to 28 - disrupting the election arrangements. ECP Secretary said that the Sindh Chief Secretary, IG Police had conveyed in writing that the local administration, police, and other security agencies were busy in relief activities in flood hit areas and a large number of police force was needed for maintaining security in flood hit areas hence force was not available for election duties. - APP

**Court rejects police request for Gill's physical remand**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad district and sessions court rejected on Wednesday a request by the capital police for yet another extension of seven days in the physical remand of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, who has been booked and arrested on charges of sedition and inciting mutiny in the army following his controversial remarks on ARY News. The judgement comes as the two-day period of Gill's remand - initially approved last Wednesday - expired, much later than the scheduled date as the court concluded at previous hearings that the remand began late and as such remained incomplete. The judgement was issued by Judicial Magistrate Malik Aman, who sent Gill on judicial remand. According to the court order, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, the completion of every investigation without unnecessary delay was the requirement of every law and the police were bound to submit the investigation report in court.

**UAE deporting Pakistanis over visa scam**

DNA

ABU DHABI: The chairman of the Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA) has written a letter to Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Sajid Hussain Turi, informing him that the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has started deporting the Pakistanis coming to the emirates for employment on visit visa. "The UAE has tightened its immigration policy for Pakistan after the misuse of its visit visa by the Pakistani nationals. Now, visas are not being issued on the passports issued from 20 cities of Pakistan," reads the text of the letter. "Now, the conditions of six-month bank statement and 5,000 dirhams have been imposed for the grant of visit visas to Pakistanis," it adds. "Fake agents are sending innocent people to the UAE on visit visa for hundreds of thousands of rupees.

**Abraham Accords have not changed Palestine situation**

Koopmans, who has been tasked by the EU with providing an active contribution to the final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, highlighted the continued relevance of the Arab Peace Initiative proposed by Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah in 2002

**MONITORING DESK**

RIYADH: Normalization between Israel and Arab nations ought to occur in tandem with resolving the simmering regional conflict because the Abraham Accords alone have not fundamentally changed the situation for the Palestinians, Sven Koopmans, the EU special representative for the Middle East Peace Process, has said. The Abraham Accords are a series of agreements that have resulted in the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and four Arab countries. The UAE was the first to sign the pact in 2020, inaugurating a new era of political, economic and security cooperation with Israel in the face of common strategic concerns and regional threats. "I think these accords have, in some way, shown that change is possible," Koopmans, a Dutch international lawyer and former politician, told Arab News during a visit to Riyadh on Monday "Relations between the countries (concerned) have changed and we

see positive things come out of it. At the same time, I do not believe that those agreements have fundamentally changed the situation for the Palestinians." Although welcomed by much of the international community at the time, skeptics had warned that normalization alone would do little to resolve the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict, nor would it bring about a final settlement based on the two-state solution. In the absence of tangible progress toward a peace settlement that addresses the needs of the Palestinians, most Arab countries have declined to embrace



the logic of normalization of ties with Israel. Koopmans said he had talks on Monday with Adel Al-Jubeir, the Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs, in the course of which they discussed the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab conflicts and the need to find a positive solution that would offer peace, not just for the Palestinians and the Israelis but for the wider region. "I believe Saudi Arabia has a very important role to play," Koopmans told Arab News. "It is everyone's hope that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict gets resolved and

that a Palestinian state comes into full existence and is recognized. For that, we need more. "So, that's also what I'm discussing with the Saudi government and with many other governments in the region. How can we do everything in a way so that, at the same time you have normalization, you also have actual peace? We cannot leave one thing for later. That may never happen." Koopmans, who has been tasked by the EU with providing an active contribution to the final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, highlighted the continued relevance of the Arab Peace Initiative proposed by Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah in 2002. The initiative, which was re-endorsed at the 2007 and at the 2017 Arab League summits, offers normalization of relations in return for a full withdrawal by Israel from the occupied Arab territories, a "just settlement" of the Palestinian refugee problem, and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.



ISLAMABAD: Members of the Korea-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, led by its Head, Mr Lee Hack Young, call on President Dr Arif Alvi. - DNA

**IHC seeks comments on Akber's plea in PTI appeal**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday issued notices to respondents on a plea seeking to make Akber S. Baber a respondent in an appeal of PTI challenging the ECP's show-cause notice in the prohibited funding case. A larger IHC bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Babar Sattar heard the plea of Akber S Baber, a founder member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The petitioner's lawyer pleaded that his client wanted to become a party in the case as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had announced its verdict on his complaint. It was necessary to make him a respondent to complete the requirements of justice, he said. PTI's lawyer Shah Khawar opposed the request of the petitioner and contended that the role of Akbar S Baber was just an informer. The petitioner could hear the proceedings but he was not entitled to become a party in the case, he added. - APP

**Heatwave triggers 'false autumn' in UK**

LONDON: Searing summer temperatures in the UK have not just parched the earth and dried up rivers, lakes and reservoirs but are also seeing trees shed their leaves early. Instead of green, many gardens, parks and woods are now a sea of orange, yellow, red and brown, with thick carpets of leaves on the ground. The early leaf fall - dubbed a "false autumn" - is a sign of stress, as trees shed their leaves to try to retain moisture. But experts say while older trees with deep roots can withstand the drier conditions, younger, less established ones could be at risk. "The trees are enacting the hormones they use in autumn to just retract and ensure their survival," said Rosie Walker, of the Woodland Trust conservation charity. "They'll keep going like this for a few years but it is going to start impacting our trees if we're not very careful," she told BBC radio. Temperatures soared above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time in Britain in July, with the month the driest on record in many parts of southern and eastern England. Climate change has been blamed for the searing heatwave, which has led to drought being declared and a ban on the use of hoses to save water in some areas. The Woodland Trust said fallen leaves are most likely to come from birch, silver birch and rowan trees. "We saw the first turn in silver birch on August 12, which is incredibly early," said Walker, adding that other species were also shedding their leaves. - APP

**200 units electricity cap for FCA exemption announced**

DNA

KARACHI: Following the announcement of the relief package by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan on Wednesday explained that only the households that consume electricity up to 200 units will be exempt from fuel charges adjustment (FCA). Addressing a press conference in Karachi, the power minister revealed that 17 million people are being provided relief amounting to Rs22 billion on account of the FCA. A day earlier, PM Shehbaz announced that 17 million of the total power consumers will be exempt from paying the high FCA in their electricity bills. In a video address from Qatar, where he is on a two-day trip, the prime minister had said that after consulting with the International Monetary Fund, PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and other coalition leaders, it was decided that 17.1 million electricity consumers would not have to pay the FCA for the month of July and August.

**Rupee continues to weaken against dollar**

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee continued to weaken on Wednesday against the US dollar ahead of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) executive board meeting - scheduled for August 29 in Washington. In the interbank market, the local unit closed at 218.38 after losing 0.72 against the dollar, up from yesterday's close of 217.66. Economic experts have said that the pressure on the rupee will continue till the IMF board's approval of disbursing \$1.17 billion tranche for Pakistan. In an interview with Bloomberg TV, State Bank of Pakistan Acting Governor Murtaza Syed said that Pakistan is likely to receive a \$1.17 billion loan tranche from the IMF within six days after the Executive Board's approval. The acting governor said that the country's forex reserves will shore up to \$16 billion by the end of the current fiscal year 2022-23 which dropped to \$8 billion due to delay in the revival of the IMF agreement and external flows.

**Russia's Rosatom, IAEA discuss nuclear plant visit**

MOSCOW: The head of Russia's state nuclear energy agency on Wednesday held a meeting with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief to discuss an expected inspection of a Moscow-controlled atomic plant in Ukraine. Recent shelling and fighting around the giant facility - the largest in Europe - has raised concerns of a nuclear incident comparable to Chernobyl, with Kyiv and Moscow accusing each other of targeting the plant. Head of the UN agency Rafael Grossi and Rosatom chief Alexei Likhachev met in Istanbul on Wednesday, the Russian nuclear energy agency said in a statement. Grossi and Likhachev "discussed in detail all the issues relating to the planned IAEA

mission to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant", Rosatom said. "The Russian side shares the intention... to organise such a mission in the near future, as soon as the military situation on the ground allows it," it added. Likhachev "underlined that the security of nuclear installations, wherever they are, has always been and remains a top priority of Russia". Last week, presidents Vladimir Putin and Emmanuel Macron called for a rapid independent inspection at the atomic plant that was seized by Russia in March in the early days of the military campaign in Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has urged the UN to secure the site. - APP

**Govt may increase petrol price by Rs20 litre**

ISLAMABAD: Government is likely to drop the petrol bomb on the already suffering masses by increasing the prices of petroleum products by up to Rs20 per litre. On August 15, the government increased the petrol price by Rs6.72 per litre, while slashed diesel price by Rs0.51. The price of petrol was fixed at Rs233.91 per litre, diesel at Rs244.44 per litre, kerosene oil is

being sold for Rs199.40 per litre, and the price of light diesel oil is Rs191.75 per litre. The finance division in its statement said that in the wake of fluctuations in petroleum prices in the international market and exchange rate variations, the government had decided to revise the existing prices of petroleum products to pass on the impact to the consumers. On the other hand, Pakistan had assured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to gradually increase the levy on petroleum products up to Rs50 per litre. A letter of intent had been agreed upon between Pakistan and the IMF. - DNA

**Japan considers nuclear power despite post Fukushima vows**

Kishida's announcement at a "green transformation" conference, while speaking remotely due to a positive Covid test, is a departure from previously announced official policy in Japan

TOKYO: Eleven years after an earthquake and the resulting tsunami shutdown the Fukushima nuclear power station, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said his country is contemplating extending the operating life of and building a new generation of nuclear power plants. "Japan needs to bear in mind potential crisis scenarios," Kishida said. Kishida's announcement at a "green transformation" conference, while speaking remotely due to a positive COVID-19 test, is a departure from previously announced official policy in Japan. By the end of the year, the country will decide on its new policy, he said. After the Fukushima disaster, state policy and public opinion abruptly shifted towards winding down the island nation's use of nuclear power, given the significant seismic activity in Japan. Existing power plants were only to be permitted to remain in use for another 60 years. After Fukushima, authorities put in place a limit of 40 years on the operating life of nuclear power plants, with an additional 20 years possible if strict safety measures were observed. By 2030, Japan hopes to reduce nuclear power consumption to account for approximately one-fifth of the country's power, a significant reduction from pre-Fukushima days. By 2050, Japan has stated it hopes to be carbon neutral. As of late July, Japan had seven operating reactors, with three others offline due to maintenance. The government has announced plans to restart up to nine reactors by winter as well as an additional seven reactors by next summer. Many others are still going through a relicensing process under stricter safety standards imposed after Fukushima. Japan has 33 nuclear reactors. The government has been pushing for a return to nuclear power usage as global energy supplies come under strain following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and more governments call for a reduction in global emissions. Japan is presently world's third largest economy. During extreme heat in summer, residents were asked to do all they could to conserve power. - DNA

**US biological program poses threat to SCO nations**

"The countries in region are drawn into cooperation with NATO. Following Europe, a front is being put together to contain China. The so-called Taiwan problem is being deliberately worsened, and territorial disputes in South China and East China Seas are being fomented"

**NEWS DESK**

TAHSKENT: The Pentagon has funded the activities of over 30 Ukrainian biological laboratories developing components of bioweapons, which poses a direct threat to members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Shougu said. "I would especially like to highlight the evidence uncovered during the special military operation in Ukraine. The documents that we made public prove that the Pentagon has funded more than 30 Ukrainian Biolabs. Highly dangerous research was conducted clandestinely with the participation and guidance of experts from the US," Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said on Wednesday, addressing a meeting of defense chiefs from SCO member states. According to him, the project was aimed at "developing components of biological weapons and testing ways to destabilize the epidemiological situation. "Such activities pose a direct threat to the SCO nations," the Russian defense minister stressed. In order to ensure its global hegemony, the US is trying to dismantle

**Taiwan belongs to China**

TASHKENT: China's defense chief on Wednesday reiterated Beijing's position that Taiwan belongs to the mainland. Addressing his counterparts from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), China's Defense Minister Wei Fenghe said: "Taiwan is China's Taiwan, and the Taiwan issue is China's internal affair." Lauding support from 170 nations over Taiwan, the minister said China "strongly opposed, severely condemned, and resolutely countered" the US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan early this month. China considers Taiwan as its "breakaway province" while Taipei insists on its independence since 1949. "China's position has been widely understood and supported by more than 170 countries and international organizations in the world, which China appreciates," a statement by China's Defense Ministry quoted Wei. The SCO held its 19th defense ministers' meet in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on Wednesday. Wei addressed the summit virtually. He said the global security initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping "provides a correct solution for addressing international security challenges." "China is willing to work with other countries to jointly safeguard international fairness and justice and world peace and tranquility," Wei said. The Chinese defense minister lauded the SCO, saying it has "become a model of harmonious coexistence and win-win cooperation among countries with different civilizations and systems, and has embarked on a successful path for a new type of regional organization." "The defense departments and militaries of the member states should establish the concept of a security community, lay a solid foundation for cooperation, improve the operational system, enrich the connotation of cooperation, continuously deepen the SCO defense and security cooperation, and work together to build a solid barrier to safeguard common security and universal security," he added. - DNA

the established security architecture in Southeast Asia, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said at a meeting of SCO defense ministers on Wednesday. "As for the southern flank of our organization - Southeast Asia - then there we are also witnessing a set of complex transnational contradictions. Hot spots of tension are being shaped with a hard-to-predict scenario of unfolding developments. In order to ensure [its] global hegemony, Washington is attempting to break up the regional security architecture," the top Russian military official said. To this end, he noted, military-political blocs are being created such as QUAD and AUKUS. "The countries in the region are drawn into cooperation with NATO. Following Europe, a front is being put together to contain China. The so-called Taiwan problem is being deliberately worsened, and territorial disputes in the South China and East China Seas are being fomented," he specified. According to Shoigu, "security in this region can only be ensured by joint efforts keeping in mind the interests of all states with the central role of ASEAN and other multilateral mechanisms of interaction".